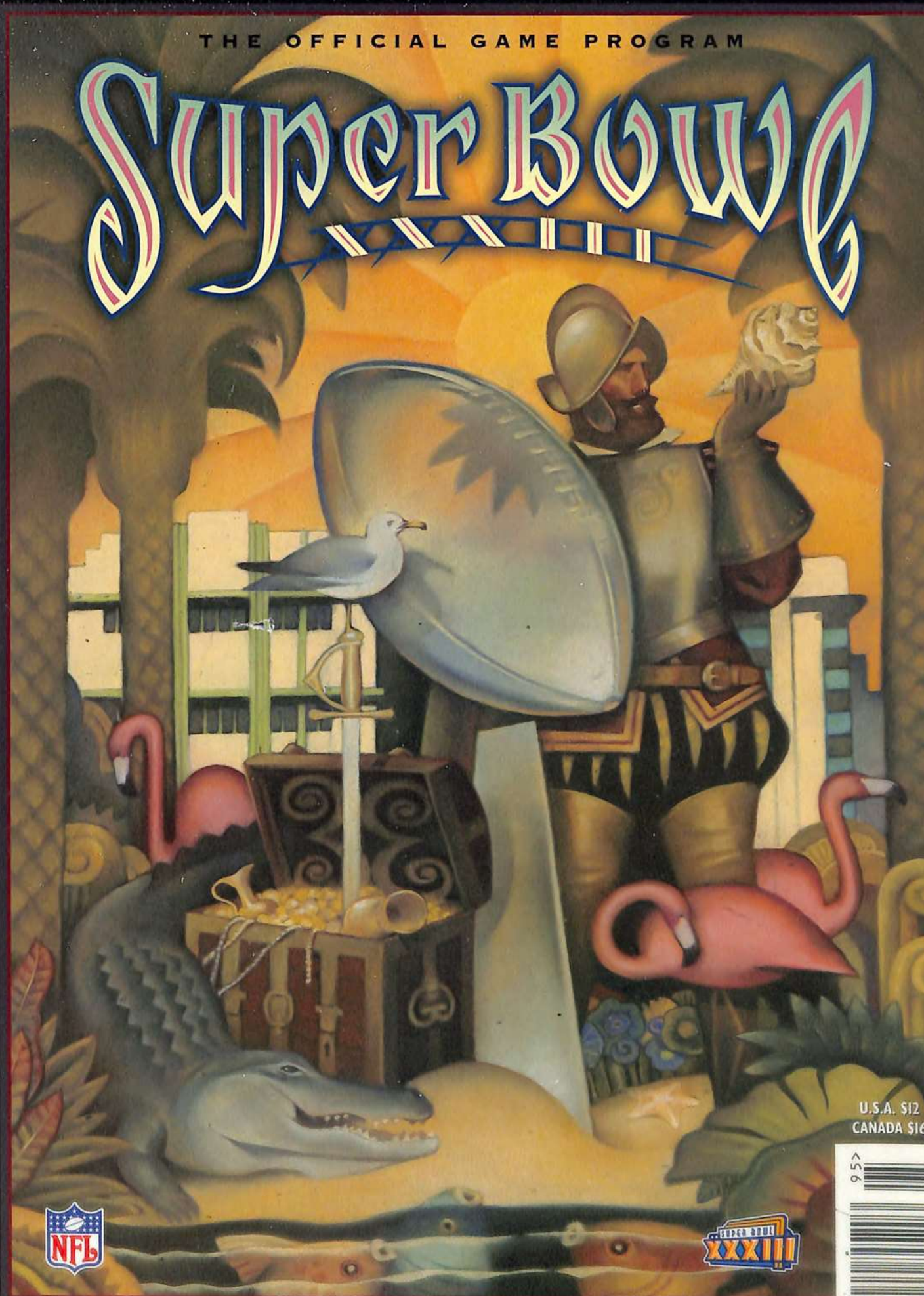
AFC vs. NFC for the N.F.L. Championship and the Vince Lombardi Trophy

THE OFFICIAL GAME PROGRAM

SuperBowl XXXIII



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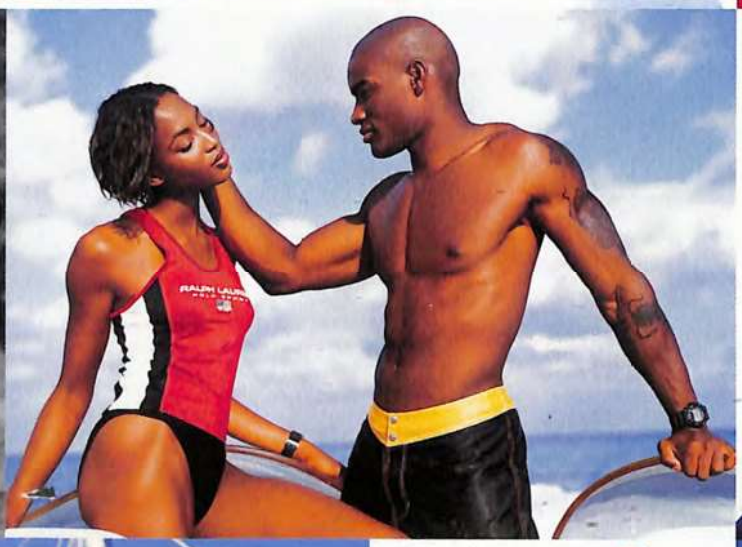

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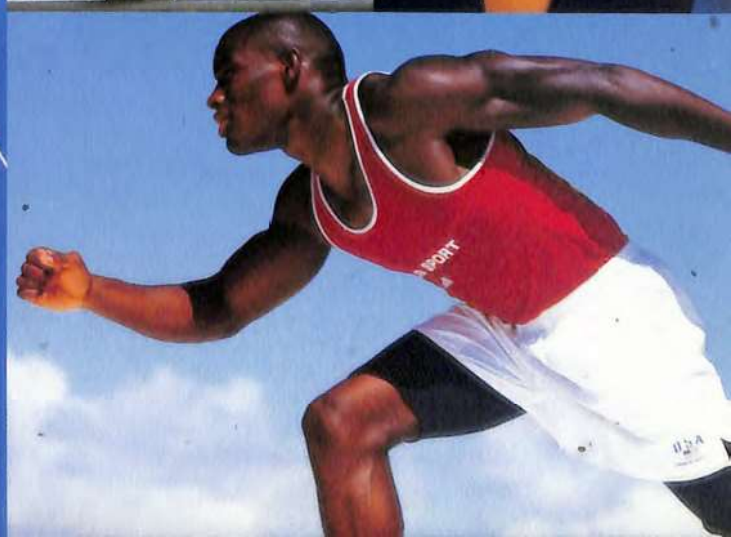

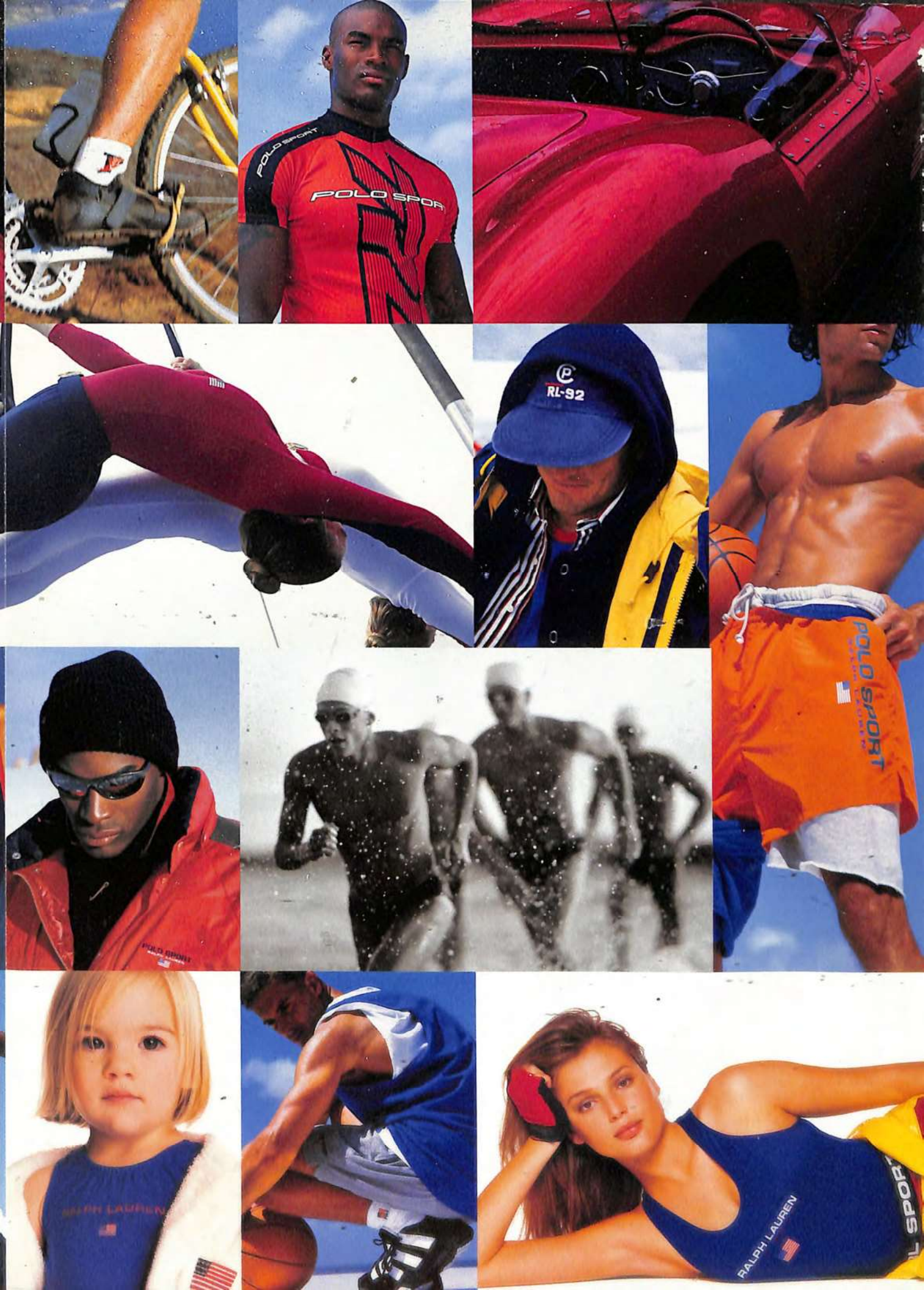
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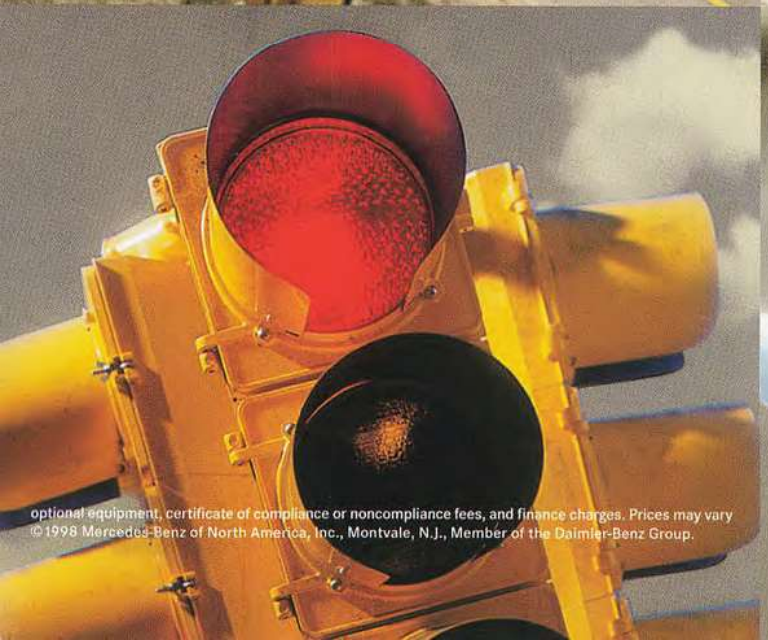

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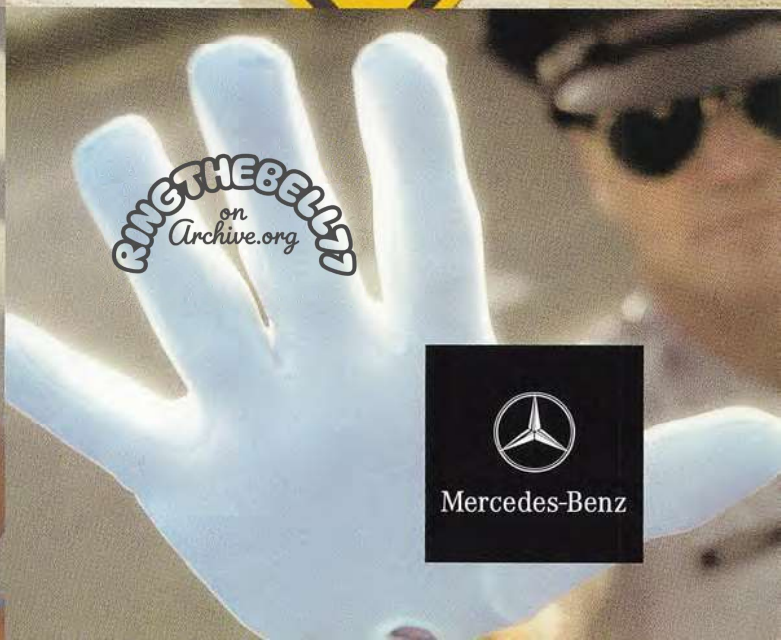

BERNIE NUÑEZ

FORWARD PROGRESS: Anthony Johnson of the Panthers came down only reluctantly when he tangled with the Green Bay defense.

GAMETIME

AERIAL ACT: J.J. Stokes left his feet to snare a pass for the 49ers, despite the best defensive efforts of Colts cornerback Tyrone Poole.

GAMETIME!

CHRIS COVATTA

TOUCHDOWN! Randy Moss of the Vikings, a deep threat as soon as he arrived in the NFL, caught his seventh touchdown pass in his tenth game.

GAMETIME

MARK BRETTINGEN

UNSTOPPABLE: Not even the loss of his helmet deterred Warren Sapp from his task of tracking down Packers quarterback Brett Favre.

GAME TIME!

CHRIS COVATTA

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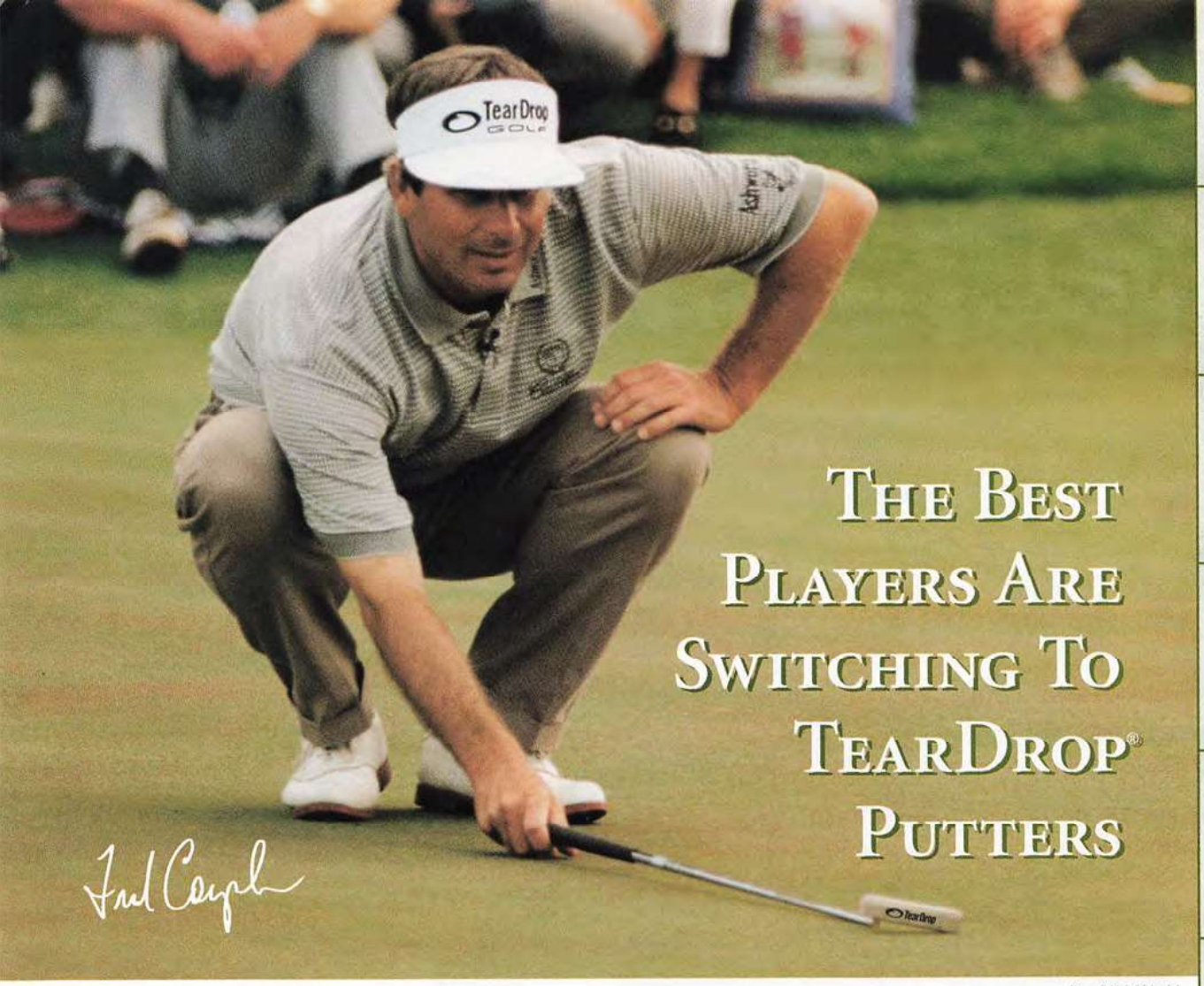

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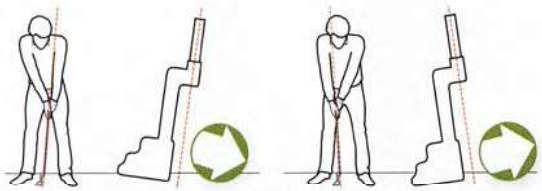
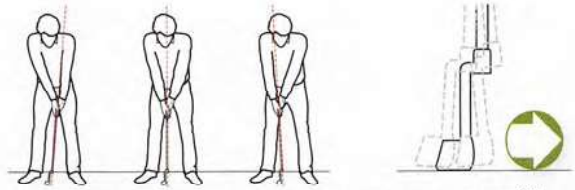


With a flat face putter, if a player's hands are in front of the ball (shown at left) or behind it (shown at right), the optimal impact zone will be missed because the designed loft of the putter has been changed. This increases skid and produces inconsistent roll.



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CONTENTS

SuperBowl

In Memory of Dave Boss

December 7, 1931-January 8, 1999

SUPER WEEK

What's what in the host city, from
The NFL Experience to the gala halftime show

23

SCOUTING REPORTS

An inside look at how the opponents
in today's game match up

37

SUPER BOWL SPOTLIGHT

Essays, interviews, and feature stories

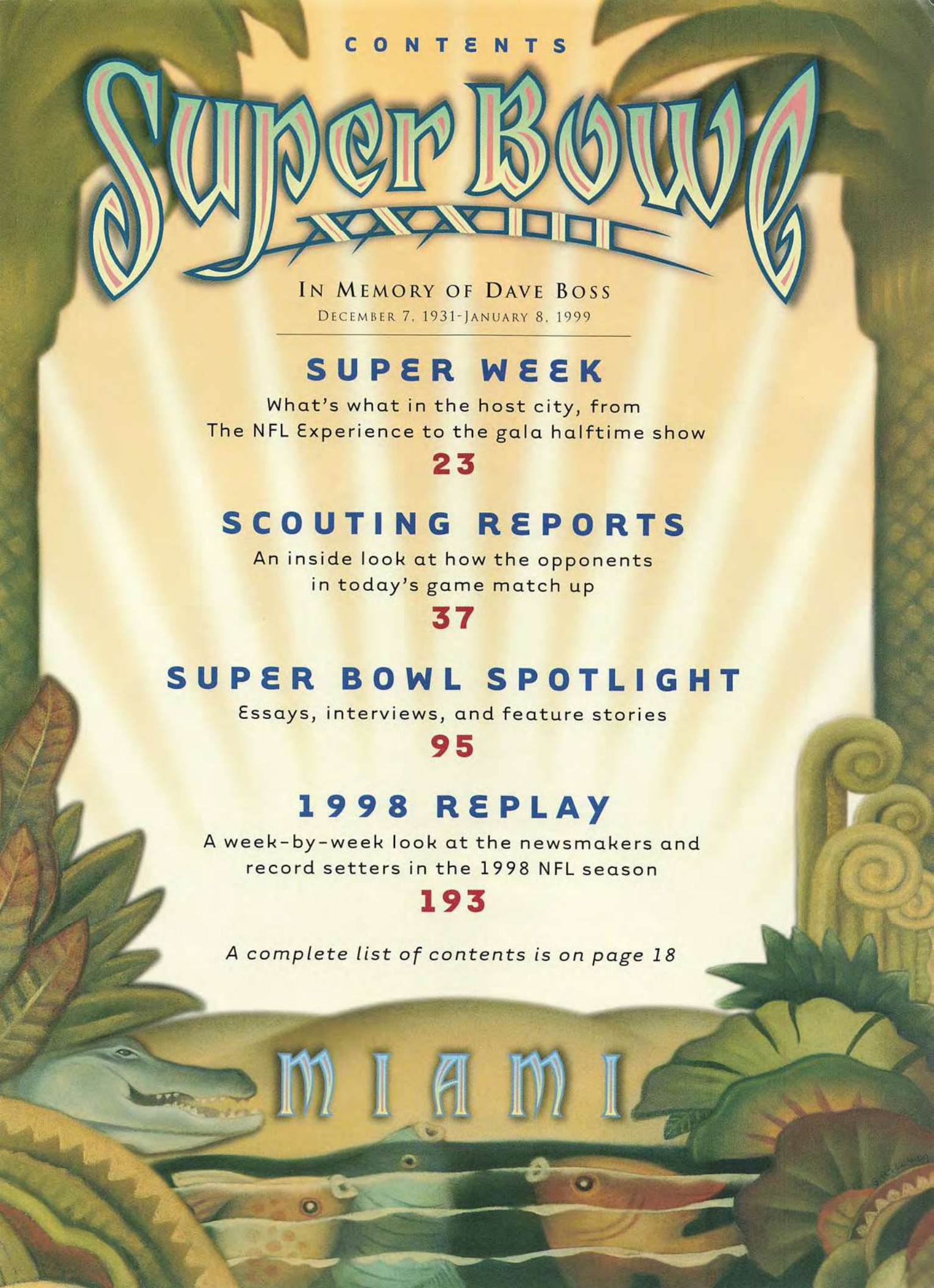
95

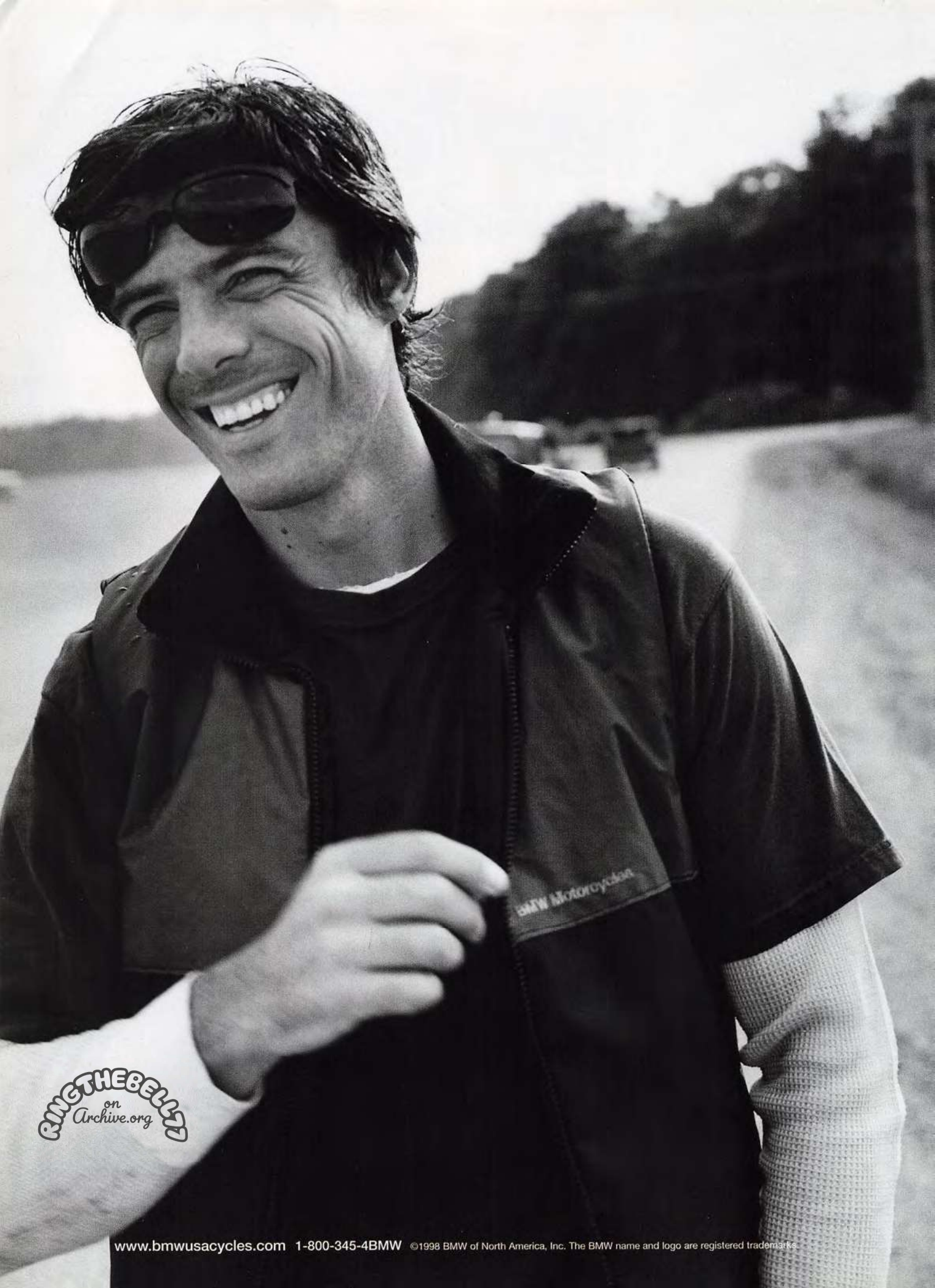
1998 REPLAY

A week-by-week look at the newsmakers and
record setters in the 1998 NFL season

193

A complete list of contents is on page 18





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My boss started catching on when I got chicken pox for the fourth time.

Motorcycles

21 From the Inside
by John Wiebusch

SUPER WEEK

23 Super Week
by James Buckley, Jr.

SCOUTING REPORTS

37 AFC Overview
41 NFC Overview
45 AFC Passing versus NFC Pass Defense
48 NFC Passing versus AFC Pass Defense
53 AFC Rushing versus NFC Rushing Defense
57 NFC Rushing versus AFC Rushing Defense
61 AFC Special Teams
62 NFC Special Teams
65 How AFC Champions Were Built
66 How NFC Champions Were Built
68 AFC Alphabetical Roster
70 Starting Lineups
73 NFC Alphabetical Roster
75 AFC Player Photos
78 NFC Player Photos
80 Super Bowl Owners
84 Official Signals
87 Super Bowl Records
90 Super Bowl at a Glance

SUPER BOWL SPOTLIGHT

95 THREE OF A KIND
Namath, Bradshaw, and Montana all left Super Bowl imprints on Miami • *by Ray Didinger*

114 THE PRIDE OF MIAMI
Dan Marino is a family man, football hero, and the city's favorite son • *by Scott Ostler*

126 XXXIII THINGS TO DO IN SOUTH FLORIDA
The Super Bowl isn't the only reason to visit the Sunshine State • *by Joann Biondi*

141 PUTTING THE 'FL' IN THE NFL
When the NFL searches for football talent, the trail often leads to Florida • *by Brian Peterson*

152 RAMBLING WITH JOHN MADDEN
The coach-turned-broadcaster reflects on his life in football • *by Phil Barber*

166 BEHIND THE SCENES
Some of the best Super Bowl stories unfold out of view of the camera • *by Bill Barron*

176 THE 1958 COLTS
Memories still burn bright for the winners of the NFL's "Greatest Game" • *by Tom Barnidge*

186 GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES
How is the Super Bowl viewed elsewhere in the world? • *by Jack Gallagher, Thomas Hackbarth, Ian MacDonald, and Steve Livingstone*

189 NFL UPDATE
The NFL made headlines both on and off the field during the 1998 season

1998 NFL SEASON REVIEW

193 1998 Replay
by Jim Gigliotti
233 1998 Statistical Leaders
234 Pro Bowl Rosters
236 1998 AFC Results and Standings
238 1998 NFC Results and Standings

ESSAYS

111 Leading Man
by John Wiebusch
123 That's My Boy
by Dave Barry
137 Mad Manny
by James W. Hall
149 Too Little, Too Late
by Jim Murray
163 Keep It Short
by Shirley Povich

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IT'S A THOROUGHLY-INTERDEPENDENT-NOTHING-HAPPENS-IN-A-VACUUM-WHEN-IT-RAINS-IN-RUSSIA-IT-AFFECTS-HER-COLLEGE-EDUCATION WORLD AFTER ALL.

It's a new, interconnected world, and we have people watching it, 24x7x365. Research analysts in 27 countries—natives, not sightseers. Economists and strategists. Fundamental, technical and quantitative analysts who absorb the world in real time, local time.

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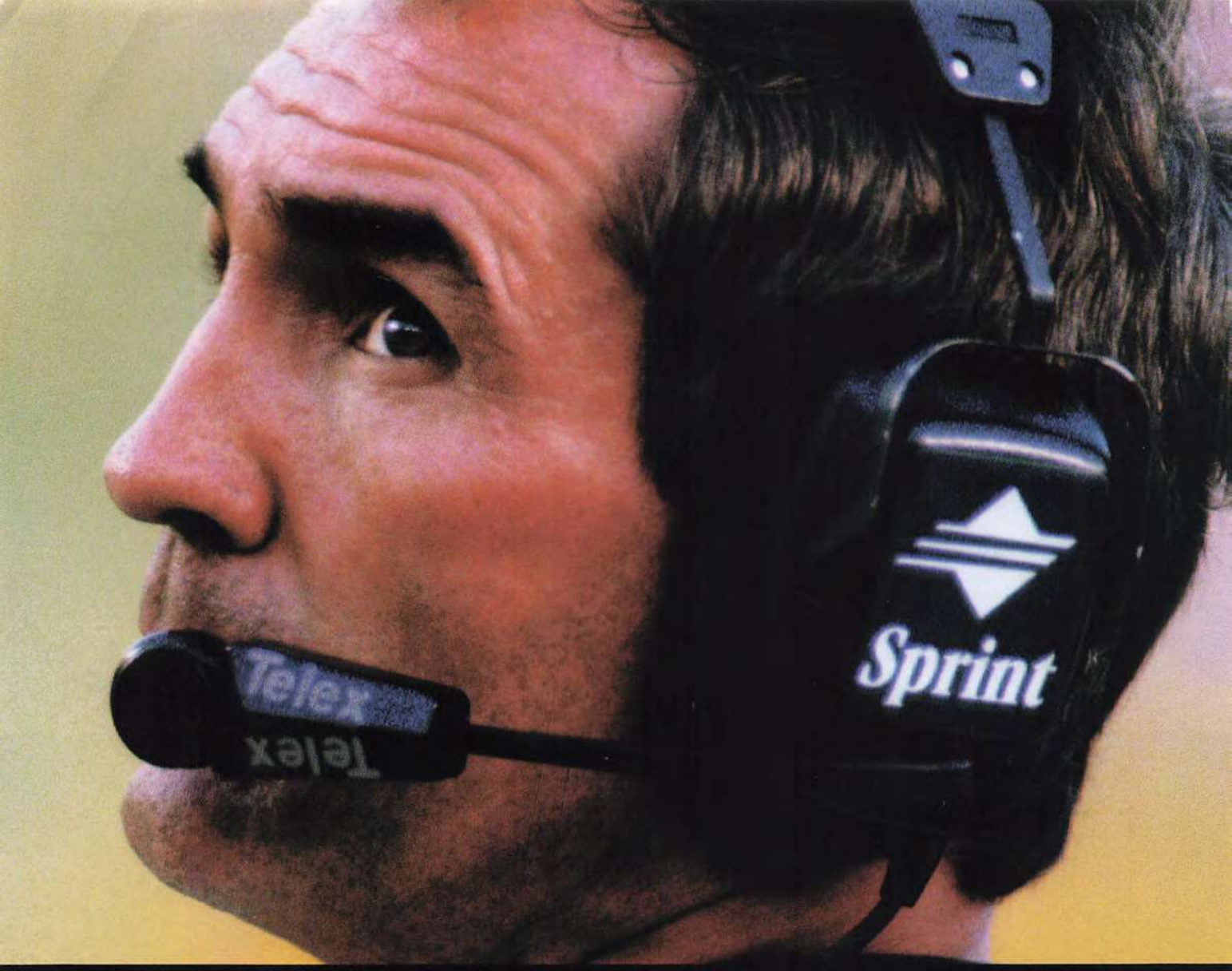

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Ask anyone who's ever played in the Super Bowl. It's about pride. It's about glory. But mostly, it's all about getting that ring. And we couldn't agree more. As the official telecommunications provider to the NFL, Sprint has answered the call day in and day out, from pre-season all the way to Super Bowl Sunday. Providing everything from local and long distance service, paging and Sprint PCS Wireless to Internet access and videoconferencing for the NFL draft. Making it easier for coaches, players and fans to connect to all the action in the NFL.

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The Winning Team

by john wiebusch

The teams in the Super Bowl are loaded at the skill positions. But they have nothing on the writing team for this program.

Not only that, but my guys have been there more often. They know what it's like to reach back for that extra metaphor for the big one. They know that in the battle of the keyboards this is the one of which it is said there is no tomorrow (only the next program and the one after that).

For nine years, beginning with the patriotic atmosphere of Super Bowl XXV, the group shown below has been there, moving the pages down the field, making this the annual ultimate in special event programs. (In the interest of full disclosure, the Publishing Group of NFL Properties has been producing the program since the beginning, and the old coach has been around for 29 of them.)

The Super Bowl deserves the best there is to offer and there is no better collection of talent than one that surrounds me below—veteran quarterback Tom Barnidge (12), versatile running back Ray Didinger (34) and those show-no-mercy wide receivers, Phil Barber (center) and Scott Ostler (87).

Barnidge, senior editor for NFL Properties Publishing, also is the captain of the team, the project manager who hands story assignments off to this all-star group but who also knows a thing or two about literary derring-do.

In this edition, Barnidge does a return-with-us-now treatment of the Baltimore Colts of four decades ago (page 176), winners of what has been called "the greatest game ever played," the 23-17 overtime victory over the New York Giants in 1958.

ILLUSTRATION BY FRED HARPER

In previous Super Bowl programs, Barnidge has done stories on San Diego's Air Coryell, on Dick Enberg, on the NFC domination of the Super Bowl (remember that?), on the history of the NFL on TV, on the NFL's seventy-fifth anniversary, and on writers who have covered every Super Bowl.

Didinger, now a producer for NFL Films but before that a columnist and writer for the *Philadelphia Bulletin* and *Philadelphia Daily News* for a quarter-century, checks in with a triptych on Joe Namath, Terry Bradshaw, and Joe Montana, three legends who had special games 10 years apart in Miami (page 95).

Didinger not only is the only member of our team who is in the Pro Football Hall of Fame (the writers' wing), but he is one of just two writers who has had the honor of giving the presenting speech for a player being inducted into the Hall (Tommy McDonald in 1998). Over the years, Didinger has written dozens of stories (plus a couple of books) for us. His Super Bowl contributions have included features on Doug Williams and Super Bowl XXII, the 1956 Giants, Weeb Ewbank, Joe Namath, Paul Brown, and the 17-0 Dolphins of 1972.

Barber, a staff writer and editor for NFL Properties until 1994, when he left to pursue dual full-time careers as freelance writer and dad, offers a memorable visit with John Madden, of whom there is none more colorful and quotable (page 152).

Tracking Barber in earlier Super Bowl programs is like following a trail of crumbs to catch the Cookie Monster. From Sid Gillman to a short story called "Road to Kunming," from Terry Bradshaw to Archie Manning, from a tour of Arizona highways to a history of pro football in Los Angeles, from a fantasy about Super Bowl LXII to a story about the 49ers' and Steelers' dynasties.

Ostler, long-time columnist for the *Los Angeles Times* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* (sandwiched around a stint as lead columnist for *The National*), is another big-play regular in the Super Bowl program lineup, this time with a feature story on Dan Marino, Miami's one-man assault on the passing section of the *NFL Record & Fact Book* (page 114).

Ostler has checked in previously with stories on Tom Landry, Joe Montana, Don Shula, and NFL players who were tapped by Hollywood, plus memorable humorous essays "Confessions of a Super Pirate" and "Scoopman Talks."

As any coach knows, teams do not win with superstars alone. You have got to have role players and specialists. Our depth runneth over.

In addition to Barnidge, five other staff

Continued on page 92

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SOUTHWEST AIRLINES®

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SAT-SUN, JANUARY 23 & 24

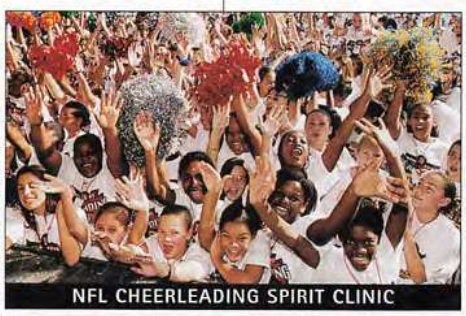
Kids Kick Off South Florida Super Week

The future Super Bowl players of South Florida are the focus of several events as Super Week kicks off.

The annual Super Bowl Youth Clinics, organized by former Miami Dolphins great Nat Moore, attract a wealth of NFL talent and a horde of football-crazy kids. Lessons on football and life are presented by NFL players, coaches, and alumni in a fun and kid-friendly way. The clinics will be held at The NFL Experience field.

Other kids' events include the Super Bowl Cheerleading Spirit Clinic—hundreds of local girls will learn how to high-kick from NFL cheerleaders—and Youth Kickoff Weekend and Coca-Cola Kids' Day at The NFL Experience.

Also taking place on Super Week's opening weekend is an NFL Flag presented by Nike event, featuring youth teams from the tri-county area playing the NFL's popular new flag football games. Kids in more than 20 cities now take part in NFL Flag leagues in the fall and spring.



THOM VOLLENWEIDER

NFL CHEERLEADING SPIRIT CLINIC

SUPER BOWL ONLINE

ILLUSTRATION BY PETER HOEY

South Florida boasts excellent surfing, but Web surfers know there is only one site to surf this week:

superbowl.com

Annually one of the busiest Web sites, superbowl.com again offers live press conferences, frequent updates from each team's camp and from all the Super Week events, interactive games, video clips, and more. Check out Super Bowl history, order Super Bowl merchandise online, and take part in numerous chats with NFL heroes.

Along with radio calls of the game in several languages, the highlight of the site is the live cybercast of Super Bowl XXXIII itself.

A NUMERICAL TRIBUTE TO SUPER BOWL "33"

THREES Are Wild!

Part I: Uniform Number 3

Per NFL rules, the number 3 now is reserved for punters, kickers, and quarterbacks.

These members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame are identified with uniform number 3: Green Bay halfback Tony Canadeo, Chicago running back Bronko Nagurski, and Jan Stenerud, a kicker for Kansas City, Green Bay, and Minnesota.

Other prominent players who have worn number 3: quarterback Jeff George, and kickers Pete Gogolak, Eddie Murray, Matt Stover, John Carney, and Al Del Greco.

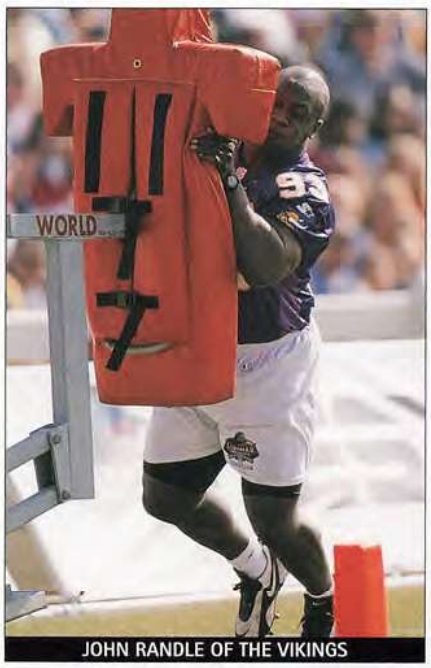
ILLUSTRATION BY WAYNE VINCENT

NFL LINEMAN CHALLENGE

OH COME ON, LET THE BIG GUYS PLAY

On the opposite end of the size spectrum from kids are the big NFL linemen. During Saturday's NFL Lineman Challenge, they'll display not only their prodigious strength, but also their nimbleness and blocking, tackling, and sacking skills in a series of head-to-head events. Tampa Bay defensive tackle Warren Sapp is the defending champion. The event will air during Super Week on ESPN and ESPN2.

The Lineman Challenge is one of a number of NFL positional competitions, which include Run to Daylight for running backs, the Quarterback Challenge, and the Pro Bowl Battle of the Gridiron between members of the NFL's all-star teams.



JERRY GALLEGOS

JOHN RANDLE OF THE VIKINGS

By James Buckley, Jr.

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TEE OFF FOR CHARITY

SUPER GOLF

Golf and the Super Bowl go together like fishing and the Florida Keys: It seems as if you can't have one without the other.

For the fifteenth year, the NFL Charities Golf Classic will highlight the roster of swingin' events this week. The Classic, presented by ISI, has raised more than $1.5 million for NFL YET Centers and NFL Charities. Players, media members, NFL alumni, and others will play Thursday at the Doral Golf Resort. The public is invited to watch all the aces, worm-burners, and chili-dips for free.

NFL PLAYERS TEE OFF

NFL PHOTOS

Among the other golf gatherings will be Saturday's Royal Caribbean International Pro-Am. Former and current NFL players will join golfers from the PGA Tour and the Senior PGA Tour at the Crandon Park Golf Course.

MON-TUES, JANUARY 25 & 26

Everybody Smile ...It's Media Day

If you wear the jersey of one of the Super Bowl teams around South Florida early this week, watch out for microphones. You just might be interviewed by one of the more than 3,000 journalists from around the world who will converge during Super Week on anyone resembling a pro football player.

After arriving Monday—and before they are subjected to Media Day on Tuesday—the players and coaches from both teams will spend time visiting local hospitals and youth and family centers. Concentration on the big game takes a momentary backseat to lending a helping hand.

Then comes Media Day. The players gather, one team at a time, on the field at Pro Player Stadium, there to be subjected to reporter's questions and photographers' clicking shutters.

ILLUSTRATION BY MARK RIEDY

CHALLENGE AND INSPIRE TODAY'S YOUTH

CITY KIDS

In the past three years, the NFL CITY (Challenge and Inspire Today's Youth) presented by Ford program has expanded from a couple of test markets to a program that reaches kids in nine NFL cities. Participants learn about life while they learn about football.

The NFL CITY presented by Ford program emphasizes scholarship and life skills such as responsibility, combining instruction in these areas with clinics on football skills, as well as competitive leagues.

This week, hundreds of local inner-city kids will enjoy a special Super Bowl CITY clinic, and hear the announcement of the CITY Football Student-Athlete of the Year. Throughout this season, local CITY groups have named deserving kids as local student-athlete award winners. The national winner represents the hard work of all the participants.

C.I.T.Y. FOOTBALL CLINIC

STEVE WOLTMANN

A NUMERICAL TRIBUTE TO SUPER BOWL "33"

THREES Are Wild!

Part II: Uniform Number 33

Note: Today, the number 33 is reserved for running backs and defensive backs.

These members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame wore uniform number 33: Redskins quarterback Sammy Baugh, Cowboys and Broncos running back Tony Dorsett, and running back Ollie Matson, who played for Chicago, the Los Angeles Rams, Detroit, and Philadelphia.

Other "33" players: running backs Karim Abdul-Jabbar, James Stewart, Duane Thomas, and Roger Craig, and defensive backs Ashley Ambrose, Darryl Williams, and Doug Evans.

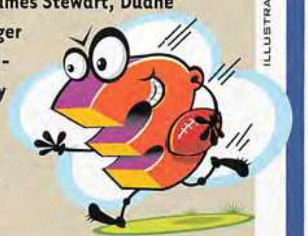


ILLUSTRATION BY WAYNE VINCENT

SUPER WEEK

TUNES AND LAUGHS

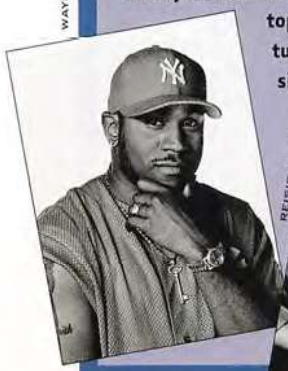
Super Week entertainment extends well beyond the football field. The annual Super Bowl Concert Series presents some of the top names in music and comedy for South Florida audiences. As always, the roster of talent is as star-studded as the rosters of the Super Bowl teams. Among the shows confirmed at press time are the two below, along with other performances to be determined.

MAGGIE RODRIGUEZ

EL REENCUENTRO In the 1980s, these singers created a sensation as Menudo, a group of teenagers who topped charts and broke hearts. Several members of the group have reunited and will bring their Latin-influenced pop songs to the Knight Center on Saturday.

LL COOL J AND BRANDY are the hosts of NFL Jams, a concert extravaganza Friday at Miami Arena featuring many top hip-hop and rap artists, including DMX, Method Man, Redman, Jay-Z, the 69 Boyz, and Fat Boy. Both LL Cool J and Brandy made their names as singers with top-selling albums before turning to acting on television and in movies.

WAYNE MASER



REISIG & TAYLOR

WED-THURS, JANUARY 27 & 28

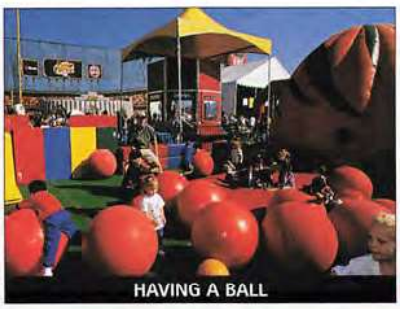
NFLX Marks the Spot for Football Fun

The NFL Experience—NFLX for short—offers Super Bowl visitors and local fans a chance to visit a unique football "theme park."

Located adjacent to Pro Player Stadium, NFLX has something for all ages: interactive football skills games, video play stations, free autograph sessions with NFL players and alumni, a special kids' play area, NFL gear on sale, and a display of Pro Football Hall of Fame memorabilia.

LIVING LARGE AT NFLX

After a pre-Super Week opening from January 22-24, NFLX will host a special Coca-Cola Kids' Day on January 27, then will re-open from January 28 through Super Bowl Sunday.



RON VESELY (2)

HAVING A BALL

CALL YOUR LOCAL TICKETMASTER IN FLORIDA FOR TICKET INFORMATION

A NUMERICAL TRIBUTE TO SUPER BOWL "33"

THREES Are Wild!

Part III: 1933 in the NFL

1933 was a momentous year in the NFL.

- For the first time, the league's teams were divided into Eastern and Western divisions.
- The forward pass was legalized from anywhere behind the line of scrimmage (previously, a passer had to be 5 yards behind the line of scrimmage).
- Hashmarks were added to field markings to show where the ball would be put in play.
- Goal posts were moved forward from the end line to the goal line.
- The first NFL Championship Game was played.

ILLUSTRATION BY WAYNE VINCENT

WHEEL FUN

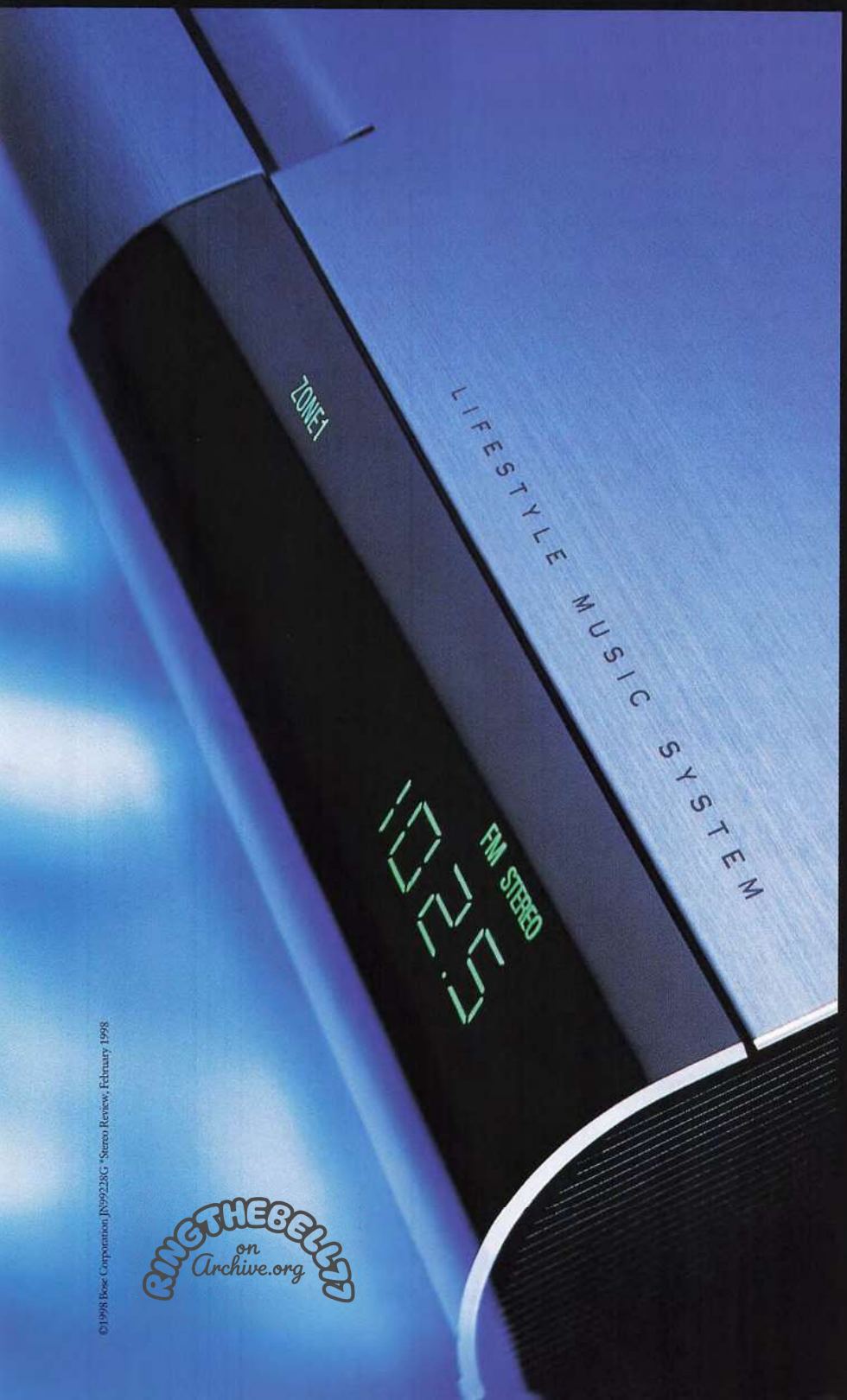
NFL RIDE LIKE A PRO BIKE RODEO

NFL players know the importance of helmets in football. At Wednesday's NFL Ride Like a Pro, local kids learn the importance of wearing helmets when bicycling. NFL players join local law enforcement representatives in showing kids the safe way to ride.

JERRY GALLEGOS

HEAD SMART ON BIKE SAFETY

DO YOU CELEBRATE CREATIVITY?



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INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

EUROPE vs. MEXICO

GLOBAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP III

SOUTH FLORIDA 1999

DIANE JOHNSON

GLOBAL WARMING

For the third successive year, the best young football players from Europe and Mexico will meet during Super Week in the AFTI Global Junior Championships. The Friday night game at Fort Lauderdale's Lockhart Stadium, is one of the many initiatives created by NFL International to help promote football around the world. The players, ages 16-19, come from junior programs in their native countries.

A NUMERICAL TRIBUTE TO SUPER BOWL "33"

THREES Are Wild!

Part IV: Record 3s and 33s

The magic numbers appear several times in the 1998 NFL Record & Fact Book:

3 Most consecutive NFL championships: Green Bay 1929-31, 1965-67

3 Fewest fumbles lost in season, team: Philadelphia 1938 Minnesota 1980

3 Most interceptions in a Super Bowl: Rod Martin, Oakland, Super Bowl XV

33 Most field goals, 50 or more yards, career: Morten Andersen, New Orleans/Atlanta

ILLUSTRATION BY WAYNE VINCENT

FRI-SAT, JANUARY 29 & 30

Locals Benefit From NFL Programs

That hammering sound you hear on Friday heralds the return of two annual Super Bowl traditions: The Christmas in April Kickoff to Rebuild and the Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build. More than a dozen houses will be refurbished or built for low-income families by volunteers from the NFL and the local Christmas in April and Habitat for Humanity chapters.

Another annual Super Bowl tradition is the creation of an NFL Youth Education Town, where youngsters are afforded access to academic, computer, and athletic facilities. The second YET Center in South Florida will be dedicated this week.

Also on tap Friday is the Sprint/NFL Sportsmanship Summit, at which essays from a national middle-school student contest will be read.

BOB ROSATO

COMMISSIONER LEADS NFL "DRILL TEAM"

A highlight of a busy Saturday will be the eighth annual Taste of the NFL at the Broward Convention Center. NFL players and alumni will join chefs from NFL cities in an event that benefits national and local hunger-related charities.

ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL GILLIGAN

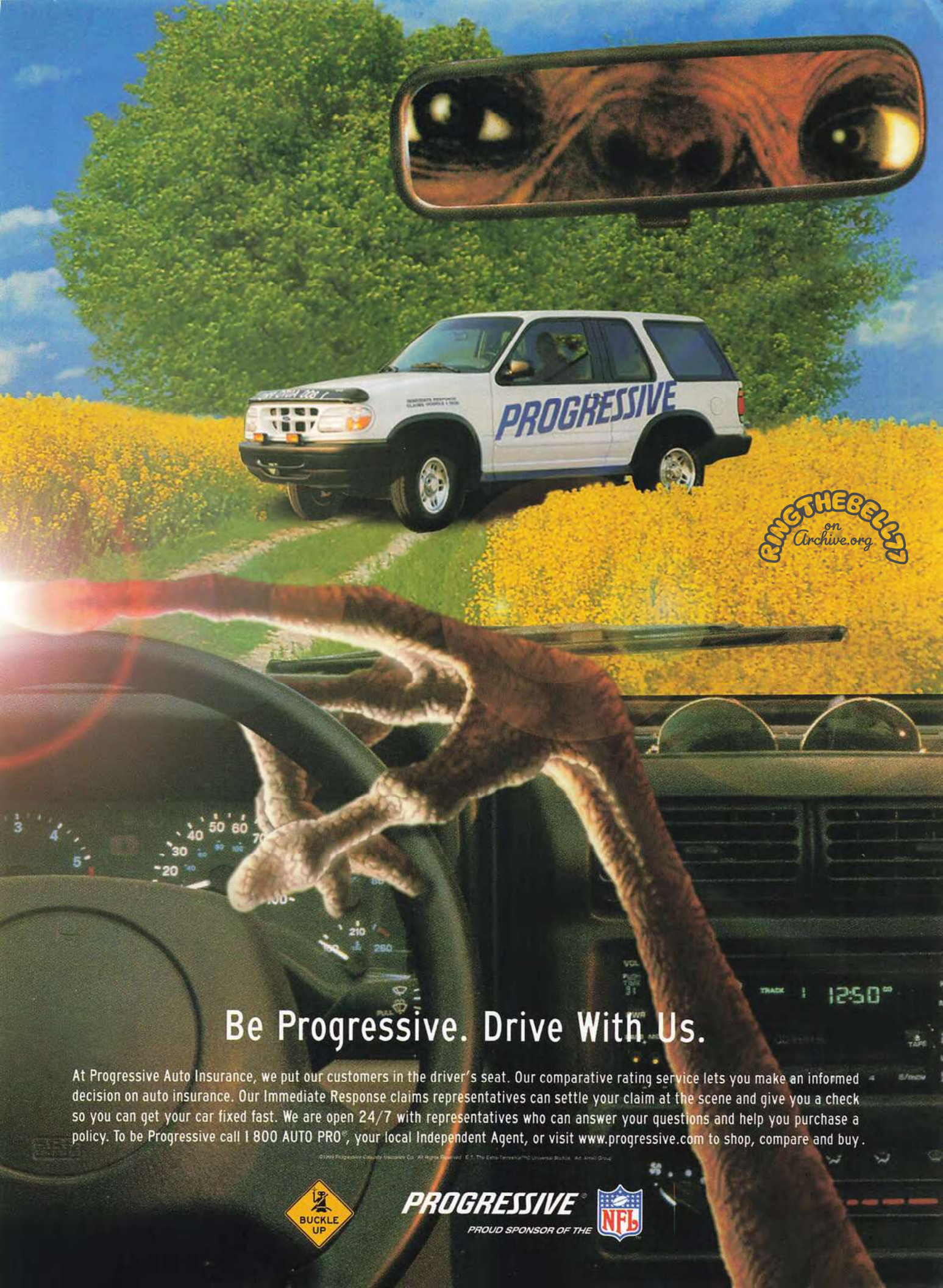
ANOTHER KIND OF UNIFORM

THE CLOTHES MAKE THE PLAYER

At the NFL Passion for Fashion show on Saturday, NFL players make the transition from the sidelines to the runway. Off come the helmets and on go the designer duds as the players join celebrities and models in displaying the latest fashions. The show, held at the Broward Convention Center, benefits local girls' sports and women's health organizations.

JERRY GALLEGOS

FASHION STATEMENT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BUCKLE UP
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SUPER WEEK

SUPER FOOTBALL

MICHAEL BURR/NFLP (3)

Since 1954, Wilson has provided the official oblate spheroid (that would be the football) used in all NFL games, including Super Bowl XXXIII.

SILVER SERVICE

The winner of today's Super Bowl will receive, along with the home version of the game, the Vince Lombardi Trophy, named for the Pro Football Hall of Fame coach who led Green Bay to five NFL titles, and victories in Super Bowls I and II. The most valuable player in today's game will receive the Pete Rozelle Trophy, named for the late longtime NFL commissioner.

Both pieces are created for the NFL by Tiffany & Co.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

Next Best Thing to Being There

Returning for its second Super Bowl in three years, FOX Sports will broadcast Super Bowl XXXIII to what is annually the largest single television audience.

Heading up the FOX team will be veteran play-by-play man Pat Summerall, joined by ebullient commentator John Madden (page 152).

Madden won Super Bowl XI as the coach of the Oakland Raiders, while NFL veteran Summerall has been broadcasting NFL action for 36 years.

The pregame show host will be James Brown, joined by the regular FOX lineup of former NFL greats-turned-broadcasters: Terry Bradshaw, Howie Long, and Ronnie Lott. Between them, the three ex-players played on nine Super Bowl championship teams.

NFL International and NFL Films will provide a live or delayed feed to more than 170 countries via satellite. More than a half-dozen international broadcasters will have announcing teams in the stadium.

CBS Radio also will broadcast the game to more than 400 affiliates nationwide, as well as to the Armed Forces Network. Howard David and former NFL linebacker Matt Millen will call the game, heard locally on WQAM (560 AM).

MICHAEL BURR/NFLP

TD AND CRAZY LEGS DEBUT

Visitors to The NFL Experience will take home one of two official Super Bowl XXXIII bean bag toys: TD the Dolphin and Crazy Legs the Flamingo.

THE SUPER COIN TOSS

1958 NFL Championship Throwback Is a Toss Up

To celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the landmark 1958 NFL Championship Game, a classic 23-17 overtime victory by the Baltimore Colts over the New York Giants, these 10 players from that game will take part in the pregame coin toss. All are members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

BALTIMORE COLTS

Wide receiver Raymond Berry
Defensive tackle Art Donovan
Defensive end Gino Marchetti
Halfback Lenny Moore
Tackle Jim Parker

NEW YORK GIANTS

Tackle Roosevelt Brown
Halfback Frank Gifford
Linebacker Sam Huff
Wide receiver Don Maynard
Defensive end Andy Robustelli
Asst. coach Tom Landry

GRAPHIC MEMORIES OF 1958

A NUMERICAL TRIBUTE TO SUPER BOWL "33"

THREES Are Wild!

Part V: 3s on the Scoreboard

A handful of NFL games have ended in 3-3 ties, the most recent a Bears-Giants game in 1937. The only 33-33 tie in NFL history came in a 1964 Cardinals-Browns game.

One of the most memorable 3-0 games was the infamous "snowplow game" in 1982. A grounds-crew member cleared a spot on a snow-covered Schaefer Stadium (later renamed Foxboro Stadium) field where the ball was spotted for New England's John Smith, who kicked a field goal to defeat Miami 3-0. The length of the field goal was 33 yards, of course.

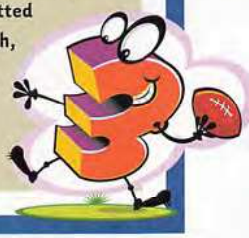

ILLUSTRATION BY WAYNE VINCENT

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SUPER WEEK

NATIONAL ANTHEM

MICHAEL LAVINE

CHER

Internationally famous entertainer Cher will sing the National Anthem before Super Bowl XXXIII.

Since coming into prominence as half of the Sonny and Cher music duo, Cher has succeeded in nearly every field of entertainment. She has created million-selling albums and singles, co-hosted a weekly variety television show, won an Academy Award for her performance in *Moonstruck*, and directed movies. Now she adds a Super Bowl appearance to her credits.

Miami-based Speaking Hands, a group of young people, will perform the National Anthem in sign language.

The traditional flyover by the U.S. Air Force will follow the National Anthem.

SUPER SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

SUPER BOWL PREGAME SHOW

'Cruising to Miami'

The two Super Bowl teams' trip to Super Bowl XXXIII was anything but a cruise. But in a tribute to south Florida's position as the nation's biggest cruise port, the Super Bowl Pregame Show will celebrate excitement on the high seas.

The show will open with a giant Super Bowl "cruise ship" sailing down the center of the field, accompanied by hundreds of dancers. The ship will visit several ports of call, celebrating the music and dance of Caribbean culture.

KISS WILL "ROCK AND ROLL ALL NITE"

GLENN LA FERMAN

Legendary rock group KISS will cap off the show by performing its hit "Rock and Roll All Nite," as dancers are joined by Super Bowl cheerleaders for the finale.

KISS, the shock-rock quartet of the 1970s with the wildest costumes in music, reunited several years ago. The group's "Psycho Circus Tour," which has played to sold-out audiences around the world, has provided more than 1 million meals to Feed the Children.

The National Anthem and coin-toss ceremony will follow the pregame show.

PREGAME SHOW CREATORS

Executive Producer/Director
Bob Best
Associate Producer/Technical Director
Ed Jones
Choreographer/Rehearsal Director
Lesslee Fitzmorris
Talent Executive
Rob Heller
Talent Executive
Hilton Jones
Jumbotron Executive Producer
Paul Kalil
Entertainment Director
Roddy White
Special Thanks
Miramar High School
Broward Community College

POSTGAME ENTERTAINMENT

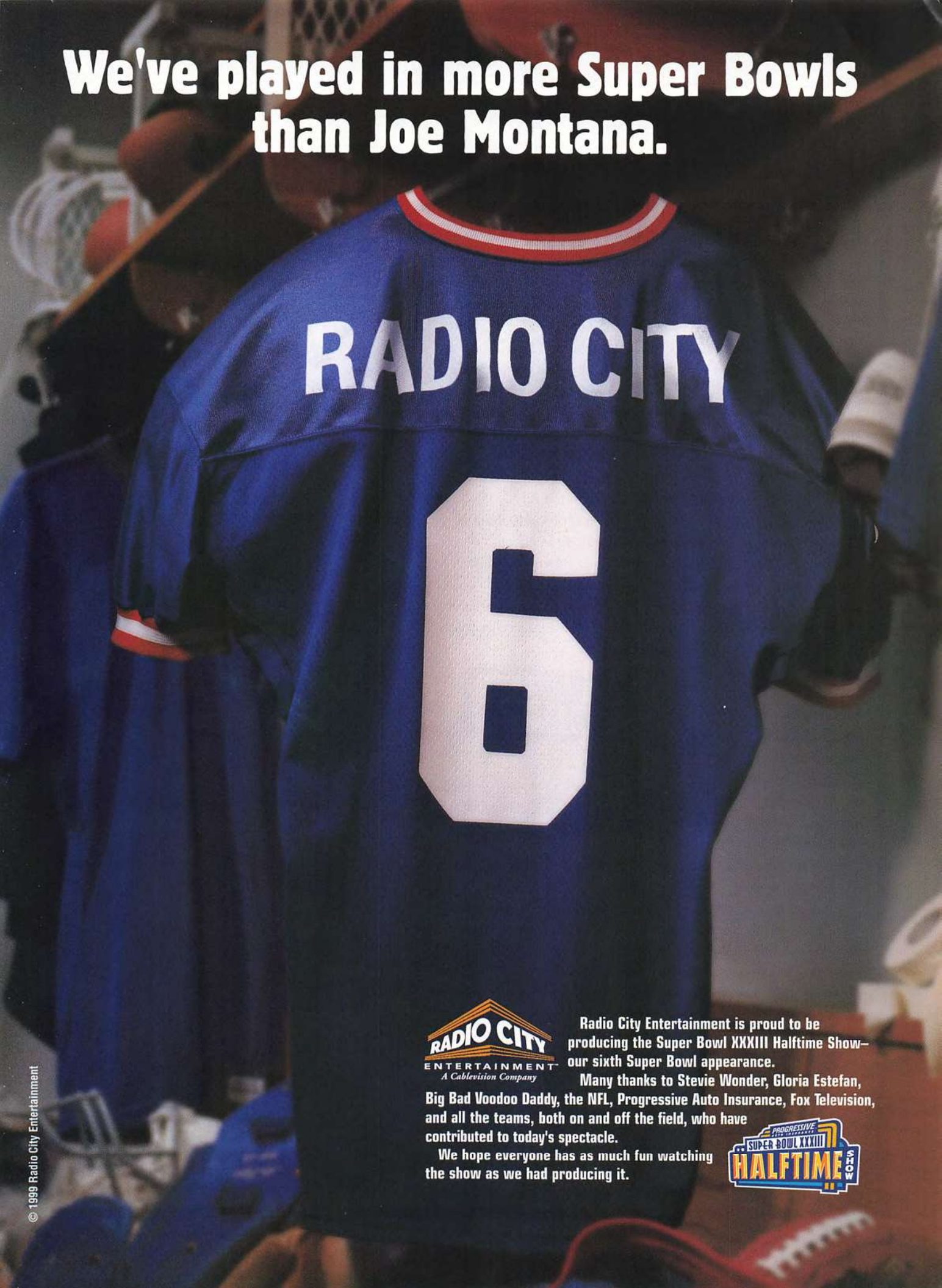
Fun Goes on After the Game

At the end of Super Bowl XXXIII, the winning team will be presented with the Vince Lombardi Trophy at midfield. There's nothing quite like the spectacle of a team enjoying the thrill while receiving the symbol of a dream come true.

Before the presentation, fans will be treated to the music of K.C. and the Sunshine Band. The group, which has sold more than 75 million records, has been "shaking its booty" for more than 25 years.

K.C. AND THE SUNSHINE BAND

DAVID VANCE


We've played in more Super Bowls than Joe Montana.
RADIO CITY
6
RADIO CITY
ENTERTAINMENT
A Cablevision Company
Radio City Entertainment is proud to be producing the Super Bowl XXXIII Halftime Show– our sixth Super Bowl appearance.
Many thanks to Stevie Wonder, Gloria Estefan, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, the NFL, Progressive Auto Insurance, Fox Television, and all the teams, both on and off the field, who have contributed to today's spectacle.
We hope everyone has as much fun watching the show as we had producing it.
PROGRESSIVE
SUPER BOWL XXXIII
HALFTIME SHOW
© 1999 Radio City Entertainment

It Will Be Big, Bad, Wonder

This year's Progressive Auto Insurance Super Bowl XXXIII Halftime Show will continue a star-spangled tradition of topnotch entertainment that always is a highlight of Super Sunday for fans in the stadium and those watching at home.

Headlining the show will be a pair of America's most popular and well-known entertainers, Stevie Wonder and Gloria Estefan.

Superstar legend Stevie Wonder has won 19 Grammy awards since his debut at age 11. Several of Wonder's albums, combining memorable tunes and moving lyrics, are among the most popular of all time. Although blind since birth, Wonder has become one of the world's most successful entertainers and songwriters, winning an Oscar in 1984 for producing the hit song "I Just Called to Say I Love You." His many hits include "Living in the City," "Isn't She Lovely," and "For Once in My Life." His most recent album is "Stevie Wonder's Song Review: A Greatest Hits Collection."

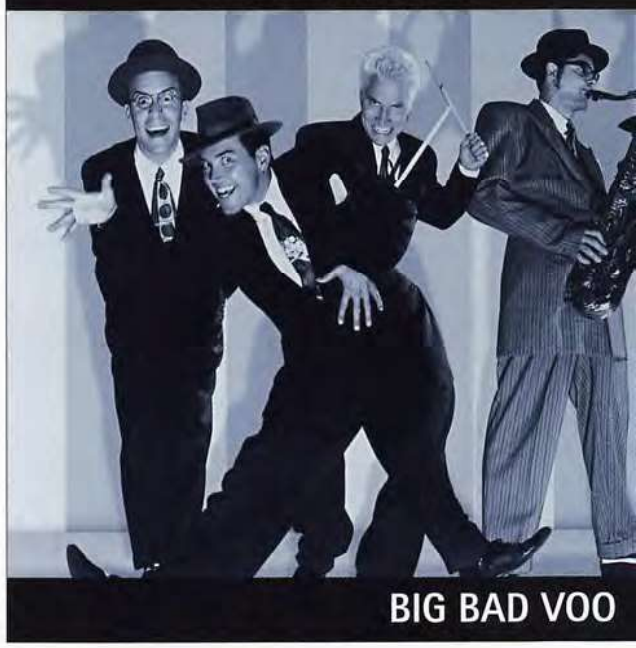
Estefan will be making her second Super Bowl appearance; she also performed at halftime of Super Bowl XXVI. Today, she will return to her hometown to energize the Pro Player Stadium crowd with the rhythmic, Afro-Cuban-flavored music she first made popular with her husband Emilio as part of the Miami Sound Machine. She has performed a string of hits, including more than 25 top-10 singles, among them "Anything for You," "Get on Your Feet," and her version of "Turn the Beat Around." Last year, she released her latest album, "gloria!"

Joining these internationally known superstars will be a relative newcomer to the entertainment scene, jump-and-jivin' swing band Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. Founded in Santa Barbara, California, the band was at the forefront of the emerging swing craze while performing at the famous Brown Derby in Los Angeles. Its appearance in the movie *Swingers* helped put the band on the map.

A cast of more than 1,000 dancers will join the musical entertainers on a field that will be covered with the style, lights, color, pageantry, and energy that mark a Super Bowl halftime show.

The show will be produced by Radio City Entertainment, which has produced four previous Super Bowl halftime shows (XXII, XXVII, XXX, and XXXII), in addition to numerous events, concerts, attractions, and television specials, including the NFL's 75th Anniversary show.

STEVIE WONDER



BIG BAD VOO

-ful, and Estefan-tastic!

ESTEFAN ENTERPRISES INC.

GLORIA ESTEFAN

DON MILLER

DOO DADDY

SUPER BOWL XXXIII HALFTIME SHOW STAFF

PRODUCED BY

RADIO CITY ENTERTAINMENT

President & CEO, Madison Square Garden
Dave Checketts

Executive Producers
Michael T. Fiur
Ed Micone

Producer
Anthony Salerno Jr.

Creative Director
Jeffrey Ernstoff

Staging Director
Judy Chabola

TV Director
Paul Miller

Musical Director/ Co-Producer
Emilio Estefan

Associate Producer
William Michael Maher

Production Designer
Claire Graham

Field Choreographer
Doug Jack

Lighting Designer
Bob Barnhart

Staging Supervisor
Joe Zenas

Lighting Consultant
Bob Dickinson

Creative Consultant to Stevie Wonder
Ken Ehrlich

Music Director for Stevie Wonder
Greg Phillinganes

Costume Designer
Greg Brown

Budget Directors
Bob Garcia
Jim McPartlin

Technical Director
David Stallbaumer

Talent Manager
Mitch Goldman

Talent Executive
Vivian Antin

Production Manager
Andrew E. Wagner

Staging Coordinator
Collin Surles

Cast Coordinator
Kristen Patterson

Assistant Choreographers
Cynthia Bersch
Jason Olthoff
Maria Terranova

Costume Coordination
Jesse Lirette

Production Coordinators
Hilary Adams
Kitty Henter
Frank Hopkins
Anne Howson
Christian Manganelli
Maggie Rosenberg

Properties Master
Natalie Woodward

Production Stage Manager
Arturo Porazzi

Stage Managers
Gary Hood
David Cove

Business Affairs/Finance
Bob Brandon
Stephanie Jacqueney
David Kerschner

Publicity
Susan Arons
Stephen Henderson
Dan Schoenberg

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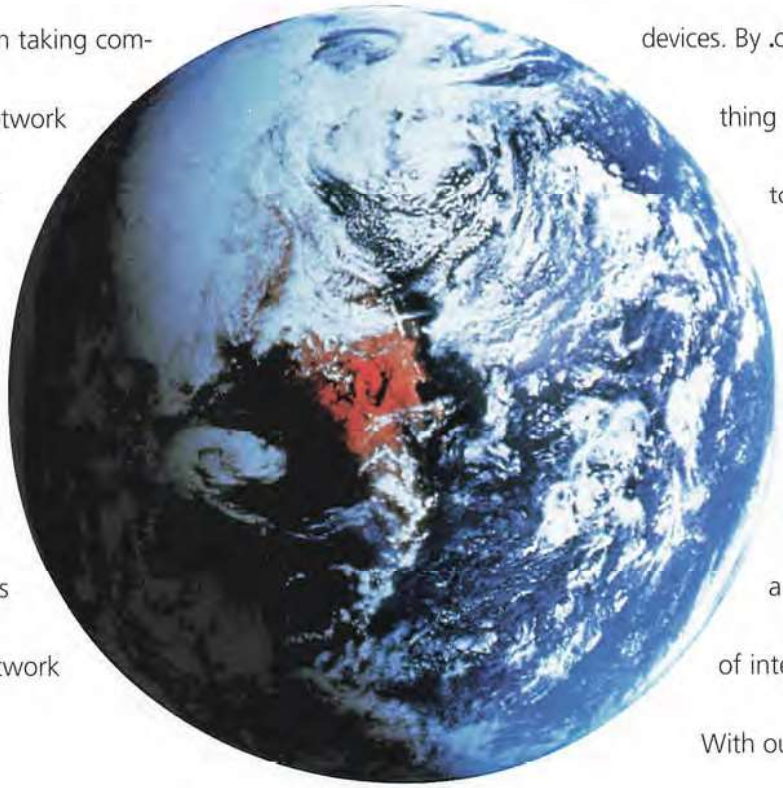

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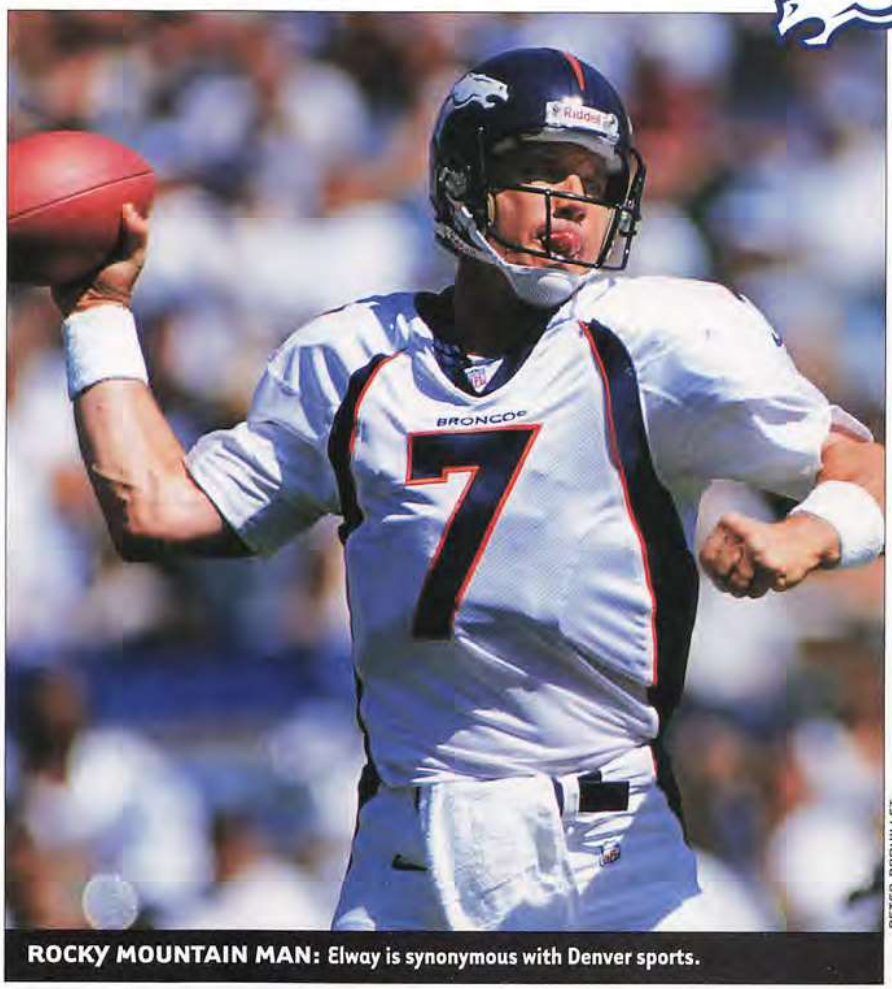
This Time the Broncos Fans Can't Bear *Not* to Look



PETER BROUILLET

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MAN: Elway is synonymous with Denver sports.

On the doorstep of the 1998 NFL season, a *Denver Post* reporter sidled up to Shannon Sharpe in the dining room of the Broncos' training-camp facility, and asked the Pro Bowl tight end a simple question: What has John Elway meant to the city of Denver?

Now, Sharpe is to quotes what Mark McGwire is to upper-deck home runs. Ask him about his car's gas mileage, and you are likely to get a 10,000-word treatise on traffic safety and global warming, with a few jabs at Dan Marino thrown in for good measure.

But when queried about the quarterback who has passed him footballs for nine seasons, Sharpe found himself speechless for half a minute. "Good Lord," he finally said. "I don't think it's possible. I don't think it's even possible to say what this guy has meant to Denver."

But you cannot fault Sharpe for trying. "When you think of Denver, you think John Elway," he said, warming to the subject. "Not skiing, not the Rockies, not Coors Field, not the Nuggets, not the Avalanche, not the Pepsi Center. John Elway."

Some contend that without the golden-armed passer, the Broncos never could have maintained their record of consecutive sellouts at Mile High Stadium, now at 232 nonstrike games. And if the football team had not demonstrated such a reliable fan base, Major League Baseball never would have selected Denver in 1991 as a site for expansion. Coors Field would not have been built, and the downtown area around it would not have been revitalized. And the Quebec Nordiques may have looked to a city other than Denver when they became disenchanted with their home.

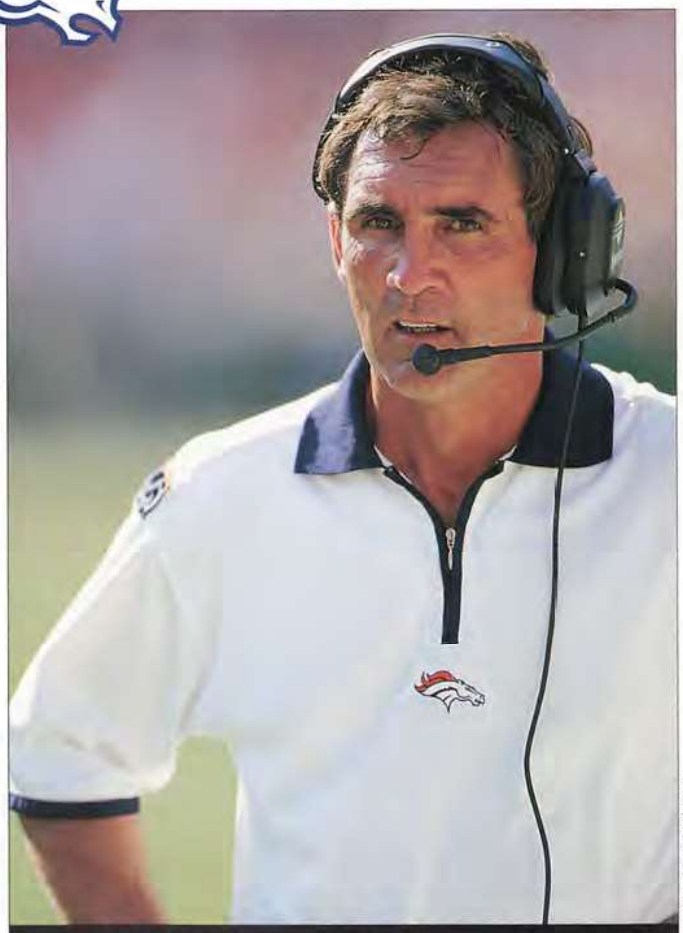
If you buy into this theory, then John Elway saved sports in Denver. He darn near saved the whole town, from boredom, poverty, and, for all we know, Iraqi spies. And Denver has just one more opportunity to watch him in action. We all do. Chances are, this is Elway's final game.

For a while it looked as though he would not play in 1998. After leading the Broncos to a magnificent 31-24 upset victory over Green Bay in Super Bowl XXXII, the quarterback paused to decide his future. Then he paused some more. He played golf, rough-housed with his four kids, and the entire population of Colorado held its breath, afraid to even ask. Finally, a month before the team went to summer camp, Elway ambled into the locker room and set his sights on becoming the first AFC quarterback since Terry Bradshaw to win consecutive Super Bowl rings.

And how different the mood is in Denver this year. Even the staunchest Broncomaniacs must admit to have had a creeping anxiety on the eve of Super Bowl XXXII. They hardly dared to believe their team could win it all. Four times before they had laid their hearts on the table, only to have them stomped upon by Cowboys, Giants, Redskins, and 49ers. Against the Packers, they were cautiously supportive.

No more. Demons dispersed, the Broncos and their fans are having the time of their lives. Last year they were almost afraid to look; this time they are holding their eyes open with toothpicks, afraid they will miss a single second.

It is hard to blame them. This team is loaded. Besides Elway's veteran leadership, the Broncos have a defense that has limited its last two opponents—the Jets and Dolphins—to a total of 28 rushing yards, and an offense that set single-season club records for points (501), to-



PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

JANUARY GENIUS: Mike Shanahan's career postseason record of 6 victories and 1 defeat is best among active coaches.

tal yards (6,092), first downs (347), and highest average gain per play (5.9 yards). They have nine Pro Bowl players. They have offensive and defensive coordinators (Gary Kubiak and Greg Robinson, respectively) rumored to be candidates for head-coaching jobs. Pressed into a corner, they have a kicker capable of nailing a 63-yard field goal.

And in case anyone has forgotten, Denver has Terrell Davis, who in 1998 became only the fourth man to rush for 2,000 yards in a season.

The last time a Super Bowl crowd saw Davis, he was running around the Green Bay defensive linemen as if they were the inanimate carved heads of Easter Island. The Packers could not stop him, a migraine could not stop him, and nothing has been able to stop him since.

"He's the best back in football as far as I'm concerned, bar none," Elway says of Davis. "He makes us such a balanced team."

How is this for balance: 38 rushing plays and 37 pass plays in the 23-10 victory over the Jets in the AFC title game.

That is a typical game plan for Denver head coach Mike Shanahan, admired as one of the most astute arrangers of X's and O's in the business. But his greatest accomplishment in 1998 was not at the blackboard. As the Broncos' spotless record grew—11-0, 12-0, 13-0—Shanahan played it just right. Most coaches would have put the kibosh on any talk of an undefeated season, but Shanahan encouraged it as a goal before the New York Giants stopped the streak 20-16 in the fourteenth game. In effect, the Broncos played under pressure most of the season, making the playoffs that much less worrisome.

Put it all together, and the AFC representative enters this Super Bowl as the clear favorite. Weird, huh? Remember that seemingly endless run of NFC dominance? Why, the last time an NFC team won the Super Bowl, Michael Jordan was a pro basketball player, Peyton Manning was a college kid, and Newt Gingrich was the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Yes, these are high times for the AFC and the Denver Broncos. And the idea of watching Elway work his magic for the last time ups the ante.

"You don't know when it'll be over, so cheer accordingly," Elway's business advisor, Jeff Sperbeck, suggested before Denver's victory over the Jets two weeks ago.

Now we can say with some certainty that the Elway Era is indeed coming to an end, against his former coach and occasional tormentor, in the biggest game in sports.

Cheer accordingly.

16-2

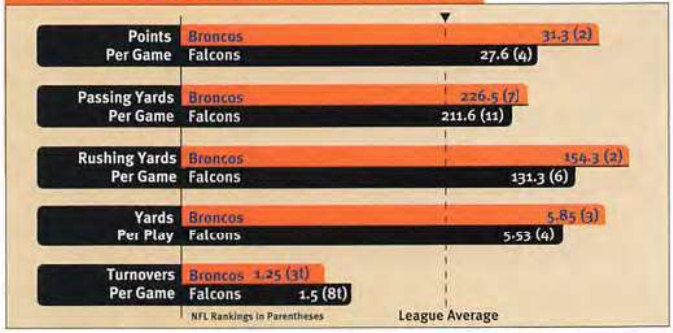
SEASON AT A GLANCE

W	27-21	New England
W	42-23	Dallas
W	34-17	at Oakland
W	38-16	at Washington
W	41-16	Philadelphia
W	21-16	at Seattle
W	37-24	Jacksonville
W	33-26	at Cincinnati
W	27-10	San Diego
W	30-7	at Kansas City
W	40-14	Oakland
W	31-16	at San Diego
W	35-31	Kansas City
L	20-16	at N.Y. Giants
L	31-21	at Miami
W	28-21	Seattle

PLAYOFFS

W	38-3	Miami
W	23-10	N.Y. Jets

BRONCOS VS. FALCONS DEFENSE



Dominating the field.

From day one, Ford Explorer has been the leader of the herd.* This year, the new Explorer will go further out front by adding optional side-impact airbags** and heated front seats to an already long list of standard features. Plus, as a Low Emissions Vehicle, the new Explorer actually runs cleaner than most passenger cars on the road today. Ford Explorer. The most evolved species out there.

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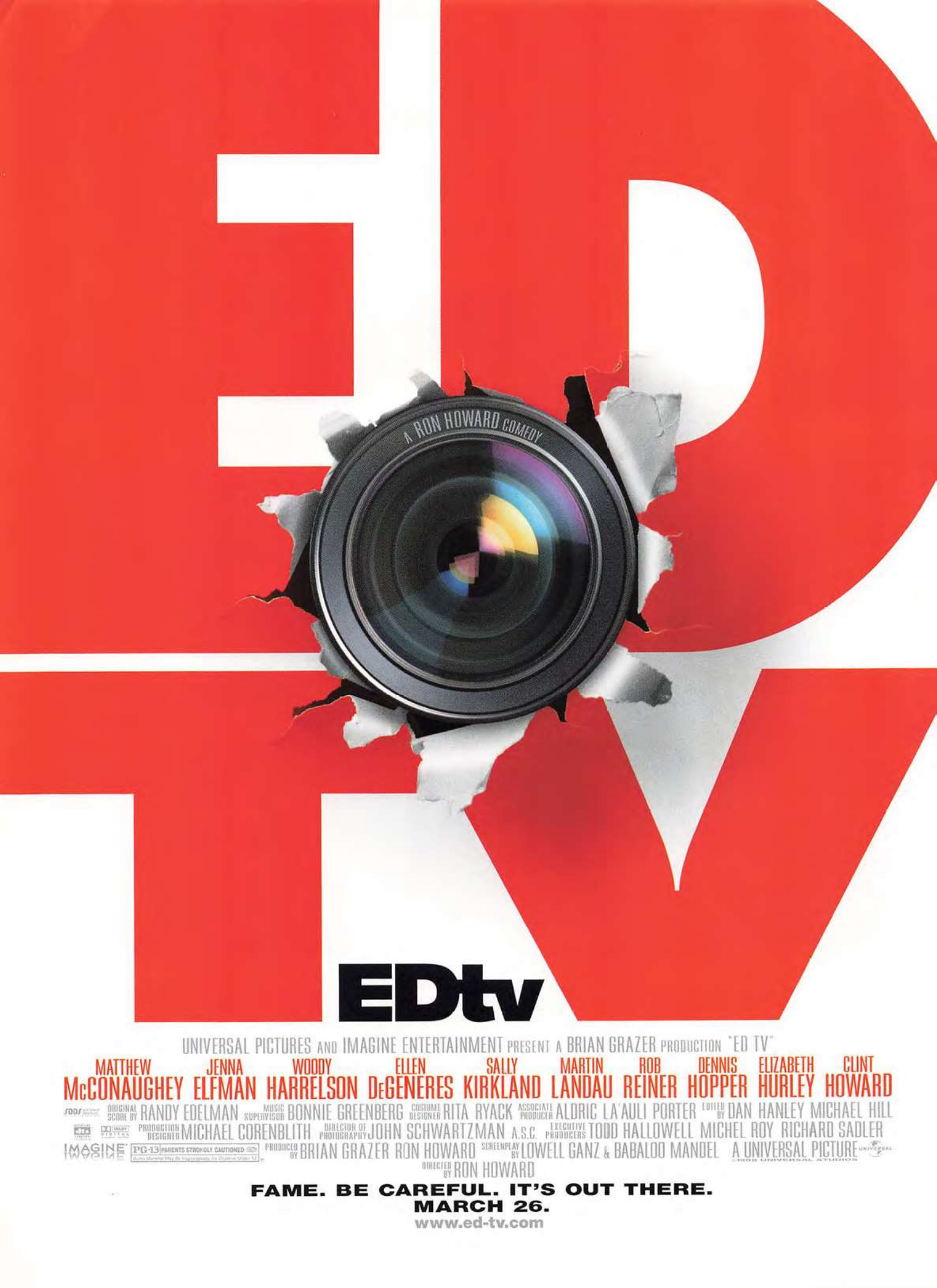

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You Gotta Have Heart...and Reeves and His Falcons Do

On the evening of Sunday, December 13, 1998, Atlanta coach Dan Reeves was on a plane with his team, flying home from New Orleans after a victory over the Saints. He would check into a hospital upon landing, and would undergo quadruple bypass heart surgery on December 14.

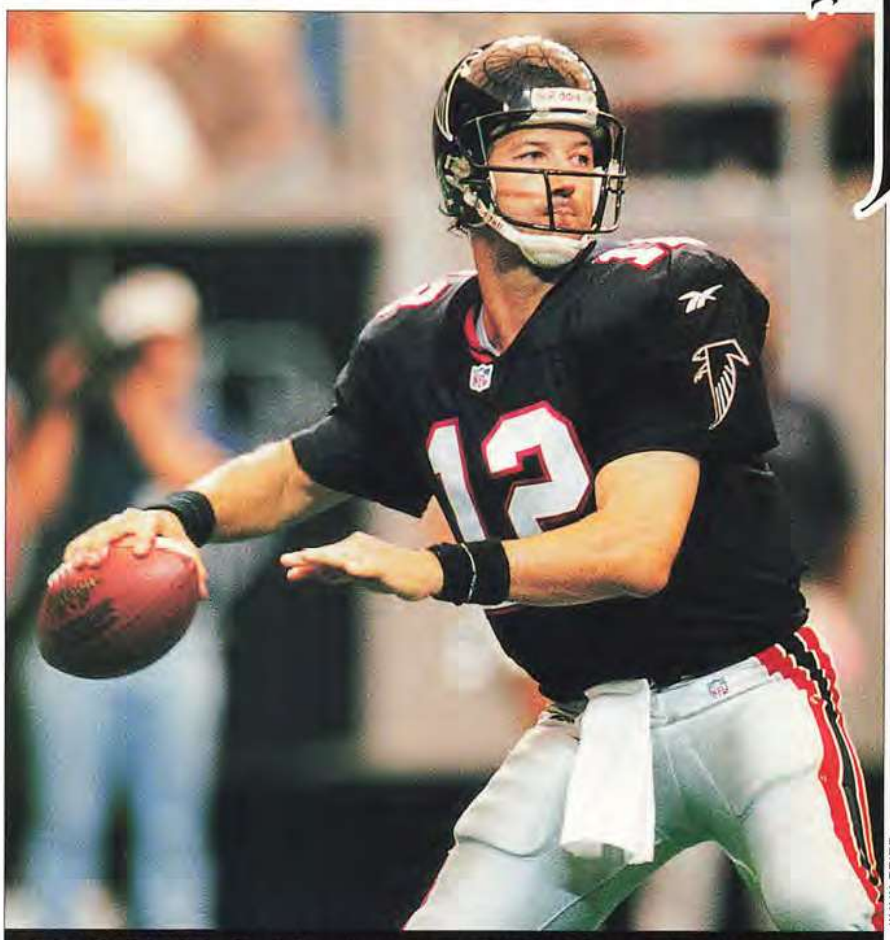
On the evening of Sunday, January 17, 1999, Reeves was on a plane with his team, flying home from Minneapolis after a stunning victory over the heavily favored Vikings in the NFC Championship Game, an ear-to-ear smile on his face. Two days later, on January 19, he turned 55.

It was a remarkable physical and emotional turnaround for the man who has won more games (172) than any active coach in pro football.

But then this is a man who excels at turnarounds of every kind, a man who took the reins of one of the NFL's doormat franchises in 1997 (the Falcons had had just 7 winning seasons in their first 31 years) and brought it to Super Bowl XXXIII in two years.

The Falcons that Reeves inherited were 3-13 in the year before he arrived. And the coach's days in Atlanta began with a distinct whimper. At midseason 1997, the Falcons were 1-7 and looking at another high draft choice.

But Reeves is not a man who suffers losing easily (in 16 seasons as coach of the Broncos and Giants, he had losing teams only 4 times). The Falcons defeated the Saints in the ninth game of 1997, and it is no exaggeration to say that they have not looked back since.



JIMMY CRIBB

JOURNEY'S END: The Falcons have won 21 of the last 24 games Chandler has started.

Reeves's Falcons won six of their last eight games in '97, then continued the dominance in 1998. The team that will face the Denver Broncos in Miami had a 14-2 record this season, followed by victories over San Francisco and Minnesota in the postseason.

The trail is littered with skeptics, even in Atlanta. Can you really blame them? Since the expansion franchise began in 1966, the Falcons had finished first in the NFC West only one time (1980) and had a 2-5 record in postseason games.

It is time the skeptics started taking Dan Reeves's team seriously. Since November 16, 1997, the Falcons are a sit-up-and-take-notice 21-3.

Pay attention Denver. The team that ousted the Vikings two weeks ago in the Metrodome is for real.

The ultimate personal story of Super Bowl XXXIII also features Reeves as its co-star. The other half of the double billing is John Elway, quarterback for the Broncos.

Reeves was the Broncos' coach from 1981-1992. He orchestrated the draft-day deal in 1983 that brought first pick John Elway from the Baltimore Colts to Denver and started a reign of success that resulted in Super Bowl appearances in XXI, XXII, and XXIV.

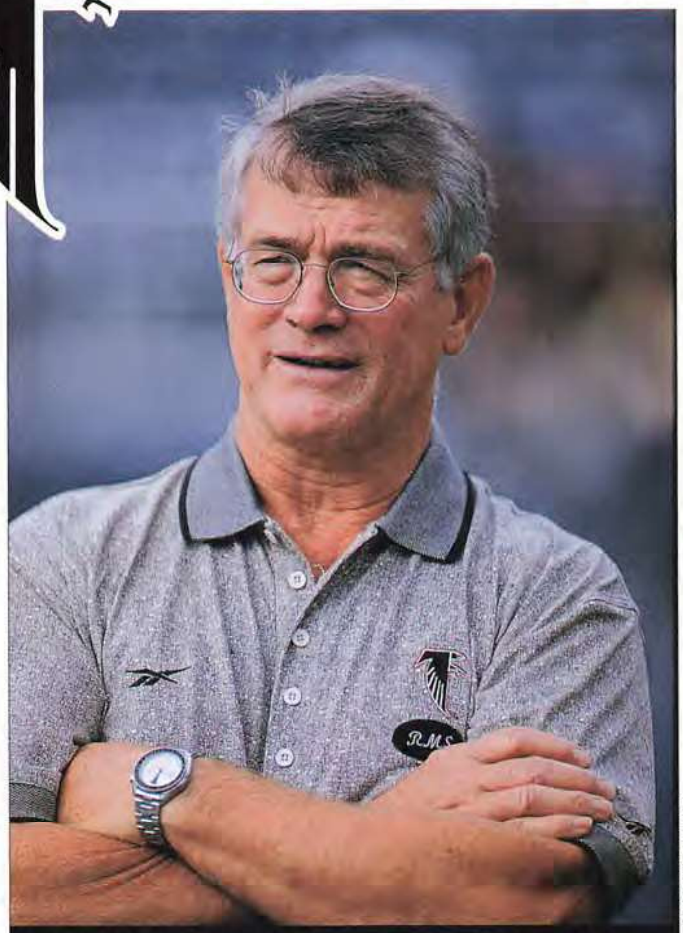
Unfortunately, all of those appearances were losses, and there was grumbling within the Broncos' organization in the early years of this decade. After the 1992 season, Elway, firmly established as an NFL legend, basically told Denver owner Pat Bowlen that it was either him or Reeves. The owner chose the quarterback.

In a story during the past regular season, Pam Reeves, the coach's wife of 33 years, was quoted as saying she "still cries over what happened in Denver," that she doesn't understand Elway's "betrayal."

The internal drama of XXXIII will pivot on these two men.

Reeves has a whole cast of superstars

SCOUTING REPORT



PETER BROUILLET

TURNAROUND ARTIST: Reeves, who guided Denver to three AFC titles, is the third coach to lead two franchises to the Super Bowl.

and overachievers at his disposal in the fight against Elway and his former team and former owner.

Running back Jamal Anderson is both an overachiever and a superstar. He was a seventh-round draft choice out of Utah in 1994 who gained a total of 160 yards in his first two years with the Falcons. He then put together back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons before exploding into the upper echelon of NFL runners with 1,846 yards in 1998 (second only to Denver's Terrell Davis).

Quarterback Chris Chandler is neither an overachiever nor a superstar (although some might argue that at 33 he is verging on the latter). He was a third-round draft choice by the Colts out of Washington in 1988 whose 11-year NFL career reads like a travel agent's dream. He made five stops before landing in Atlanta, after Reeves obtained him from the Oilers in a 1997 trade for fourth- and sixth-round picks.

Chandler has lived up to Reeves's faith—and then some. In 1997, he ranked second in the NFL in passer rating (95.1) and this year he ranked fourth at 100.9. He is not a bomber but he excels at the short passing game and sideline patterns, and he used both to skewer the Vikings.

His primary targets are a pair of speedsters. Tony Martin, acquired by Reeves last summer, had 66 catches. Terance Mathis, signed in 1994, had 64. Anderson also had 27 receptions and is a dangerous force when he gets the ball on the run.

Anderson, Chandler, Martin, and Mathis do not often beat themselves, either. Atlanta had the NFL's best turnover differential in 1998.

The Falcons' offensive line is extremely underrated. A team does not lead the league in time of possession without strength up front.

And yet Atlanta's real "secret" weapon might be its defense. Minnesota had been averaging 41.5 points in its six games before Atlanta. Not only did the Falcons limit the Vikings to 27, but Minnesota had just 7 points through the second half and overtime.

In one scout's rating system, nine Atlanta defenders had superstar ratings—defensive linemen Chuck Smith, Travis Hall, Shane Dronett, and Lester Archambeau, linebackers Jessie Tuggle, Cornelius Bennett, and Keith Brooking, cornerback Ray Buchanan, and safety Eugene Robinson.

Add cool kicker Morten Andersen to the mix and you begin to see that the Falcons are anything but a fluke.

This is a team that will be playing to win one for its coach today...a team that, like him, has a lot of heart.

16-2

SEASON AT A GLANCE

W	19-14	at Carolina
W	17-12	Philadelphia
L	31-20	at San Francisco
W	51-23	Carolina
W	34-20	at N.Y. Giants
W	31-23	New Orleans
L	28-3	at N.Y. Jets
W	37-15	St. Louis
W	41-10	at New England
W	31-19	San Francisco
W	20-13	Chicago
W	21-10	at St. Louis
W	28-21	Indianapolis
W	27-17	at New Orleans
W	24-17	at Detroit
W	38-16	Miami

PLAYOFFS

W	20-18	San Francisco
W	30-27 (OT)	at Minnesota

FALCONS VS. BRONCOS DEFENSE

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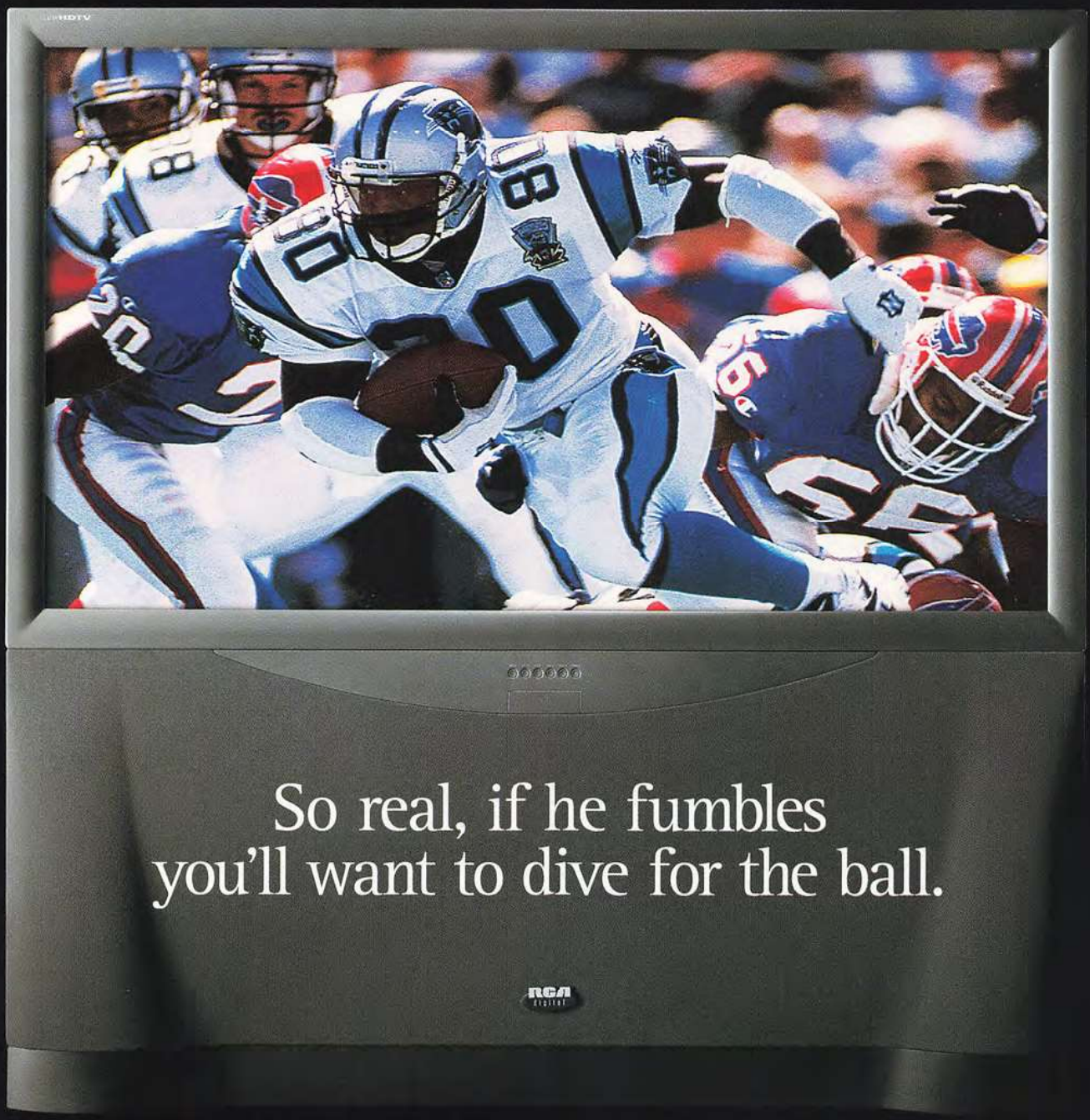

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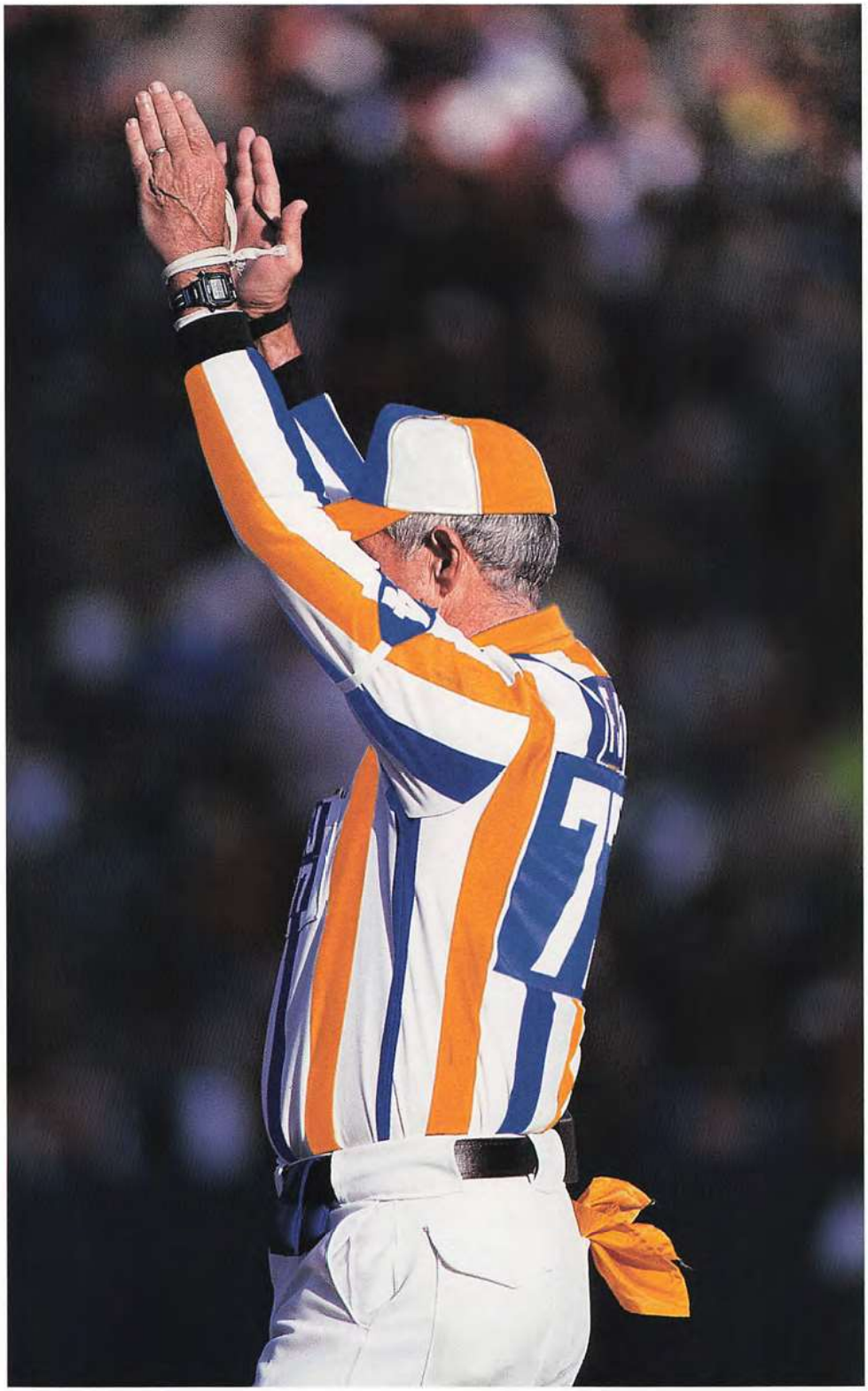

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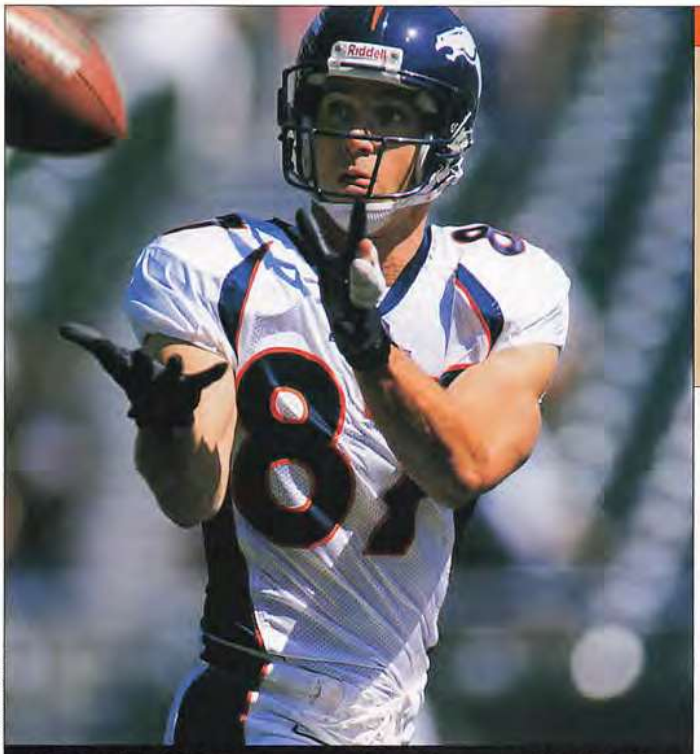

GREG TROTT

WITHIN REACH: Few passes are beyond the grasp of 6-5 McCaffrey.

He's Not the Elway of Old, But He's Still John Elway

Sixteen NFL seasons of wear and tear seemed to catch up with quarterback John Elway in 1998. A hamstring injury forced him to miss two starts early in the schedule, and strained rib muscles sidelined him a few weeks later. In a season of aches and pains, he spent as much time in the training room as he did in the huddle.

Even superstars grow older, and Elway is no exception. He no longer possesses the head-spinning mobility that had been a hallmark of his career. His 94 rushing yards in the regular season equaled the lowest output of his career.

But before the Atlanta Falcons begin sharpening their talons, they should be advised that even at 38 there still is magic in Elway's arm. He retains virtually the same arm strength and quick release that made him the NFL's number-one draft choice in 1983.

The Broncos' final regular-season game provided a not-so-subtle reminder of what havoc he still can cause. In that 28-21 victory, Elway completed 26 of 36 passes for 338 yards and 4 touchdowns. It was the second time in 1998 that he passed for 4 touchdowns in a game.

If his targets are not the most publicized receivers in the league, they are undeniably productive. Wide receivers Rod Smith (86 catches for 1,222 yards) and Ed McCaffrey (64 for 1,053) combine with tight end Shannon Sharpe (64 for 786) to form a three-pronged attack that presents a unique variety of challenges.

Smith, while not exceptionally fast, is adept at using his size and strength to shield defenders from the ball. McCaffrey, at 6 feet 5 inches, has extraordinary reach and sure hands. Sharpe is gifted at finding holes in the coverage, especially in traffic. The trio accounted for 26 touchdown receptions.

And the passing game does not stop there. Running backs Terrell Davis (25 for 217) and Howard Griffith (15 for 97) combined to haul in 5 touchdown receptions.

Passing, of course, is not what the Broncos do best. What they do best is hand off to Davis. But the passing game may be where the Broncos match up best against the Falcons, who ranked second in the NFL against the run this season and twenty-first against the pass.

The Falcons' pass rush produced only 38 sacks this season, tied for eighteenth in the league. The secondary intercepted 19 passes, but it also gave up 22 touchdown passes.

BRONCOS/KEY FACTS

- From 1983-1997, John Elway missed 10 games because of injuries, and Denver went 2-8 in those games. In 1998, Bubby Brister started four games for an injured Elway and Denver won all four. Brister also replaced an injured Elway in two other games, and Denver won those, too.
- Denver has scored 30 or more points 35 times in Mike Shanahan's 71 games as head coach (including postseason). The Broncos are 34-1 in those games, including 30 consecutive victories.
- Denver outscored opponents 144-54 in the first quarter during the 1998 regular season, the third-highest differential in league history.

BRONCOS/RECEIVING

	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
R. Smith	86	1,222	14.2	58	6
McCaffrey	64	1,053	16.5	48	10
Sharpe	64	768	12.0	38*t*	10
Davis	25	217	8.7	35	2
Green	16	194	12.1	50	1
Griffith	15	97	6.5	15	3
Nash	4	76	19.0	31	0
Carswell	4	51	12.8	15	0
Chamberlain	3	35	11.7	16	0
D. Smith	3	24	8.0	16	0
Loville	2	29	14.5	17	0
Hebron	2	5	2.5	3	0
Armour	1	23	23.0	23	0
Elway	1	14	14.0	14	0

t-touchdown

BRONCOS/PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Long	Sacked/ Yards	Rating
Elway	356	210	59.0	2,806	7.88	22	6.2	10	2.8	58	18/135	93.0
Brister	131	78	59.5	986	7.53	10	7.6	3	2.3	48	7/49	99.0
R. Smith	1	1	100.0	14	14.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	0/0	118.8
Griese	3	1	33.3	2	0.67	0	0.0	1	33.3	2	0/0	2.8

broncos PASSING VS DEFENSE falcons

JIMMY CRIBB

SECONDARY FACTOR: Buchanan is the Falcons' top cover man.

FALCONS/KEY FACTS

- Atlanta, which ranked second in the league with 55 sacks in 1997, fell to 38 in 1998. As a result, the Falcons allowed nearly 6 more passing yards per game (from 215.0 to 220.7) in '98.
- The Falcons' pass defense markedly improved in two areas: yards per pass attempt (7.65 in '97 to 6.91 in '98) and yards per completion (13.80 in '97 to 12.24 in '98).
- The Falcons' secondary produced 3 touchdowns in '98: Safety William White (18-yard fumble return), safety Eugene Robinson (25-yard interception), and cornerback Ronnie Bradford (11-yard interception).

The Falcons will rise or fall with the success of their defense. It has been at the center of their surprising emergence in 1998. The recipe for success has been sound, rather than sensational, play and a minimum of mistakes. Defensive coordinator Rich Brooks's emphasis on teamwork was rewarded with an NFL-best 44 takeaways during the season. That tried-and-true approach has helped lessen the pressure on the Atlanta offense.

What the Falcons' defense lacks, however, is experience in pressure-packed games—Atlanta never had played in a conference championship game before this season—and that could be a problem when the curtain rises. This is the Falcons' first Super Bowl trip, and they face the unenviable task of colliding with a veteran offense, led by a future Hall of Fame quarterback, that returns to defend its Super Bowl title.

Of course, the Falcons are accustomed to staring down high-octane teams. When they traveled to Minnesota for the NFC Championship Game, they were given little chance against the heavily favored Vikings, the highest-scoring team in NFL history.

Success in that game has done wonders for their self-esteem.

"When we got to Minnesota, we found they were already selling tickets for the Super Bowl," Booker said. "If they're coming to the Super Bowl now, they're going to have to come see the Falcons.

"We deserve the same respect that they did."

If the Falcons can stop the Broncos, they will not have to search for respect. But one simple observation helps explain the difficulty of their task.

Most fans know that Davis ran for 21 touchdowns this season. Well, guess what? The Broncos passed for 11 more than that.

FALCONS/SACKS

Archambeau	10.0	Fuller	2.0
C. Smith	8.5	Benrett	1.0
Dronett	6.5	Crockett	1.0
Hall	4.5	A. Edwards	1.0
Tuggle	3.0	Burrough	0.5

The heart and soul of that pass defense is free safety Eugene Robinson, signed as a free agent in the offseason, who played in the last two Super Bowls as a member of the Green Bay Packers. After 14 seasons, the veteran defender has lost a step, but his poise and savvy have brought stability to a secondary that still is striving for maturity.

The Falcons' premier pass defender, who joins Robinson in this year's Pro Bowl, is cornerback Ray Buchanan, whose 7 interceptions tied for second in the NFC. He and fellow cornerback Michael Booker, a second-year player, will take turns trying to shut down McCaffrey and Smith. Ronnie Bradford, a former starting cornerback, will come in off the bench as a Nickel back in obvious passing situations.

But perhaps the most pivotal role will fall to strong safety William White, an 11-year veteran who will be expected to keep close tabs on Sharpe while still providing run support against Davis.

Henri Crockett, a big (6-2, 251), quick second-year player, will help out against Sharpe, but mostly in zone coverage. Sharpe has made a career out of defeating linebackers in pass coverage. He has averaged more than 70 receptions per year over the last six seasons.

FALCONS/INTERCEPTIONS

	Int.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Buchanan	7	102	14.6	34	0
Robinson	4	36	9.0	25t	1
Bradford	3	11	3.7	11t	1
White	2	36	18.0	36	0
Booker	1	27	27.0	27	0
Brooking	1	12	12.0	12	0
Sauer	1	0	0.0	0	0

t-touchdown

WHEN DENVER HAS THE BALL

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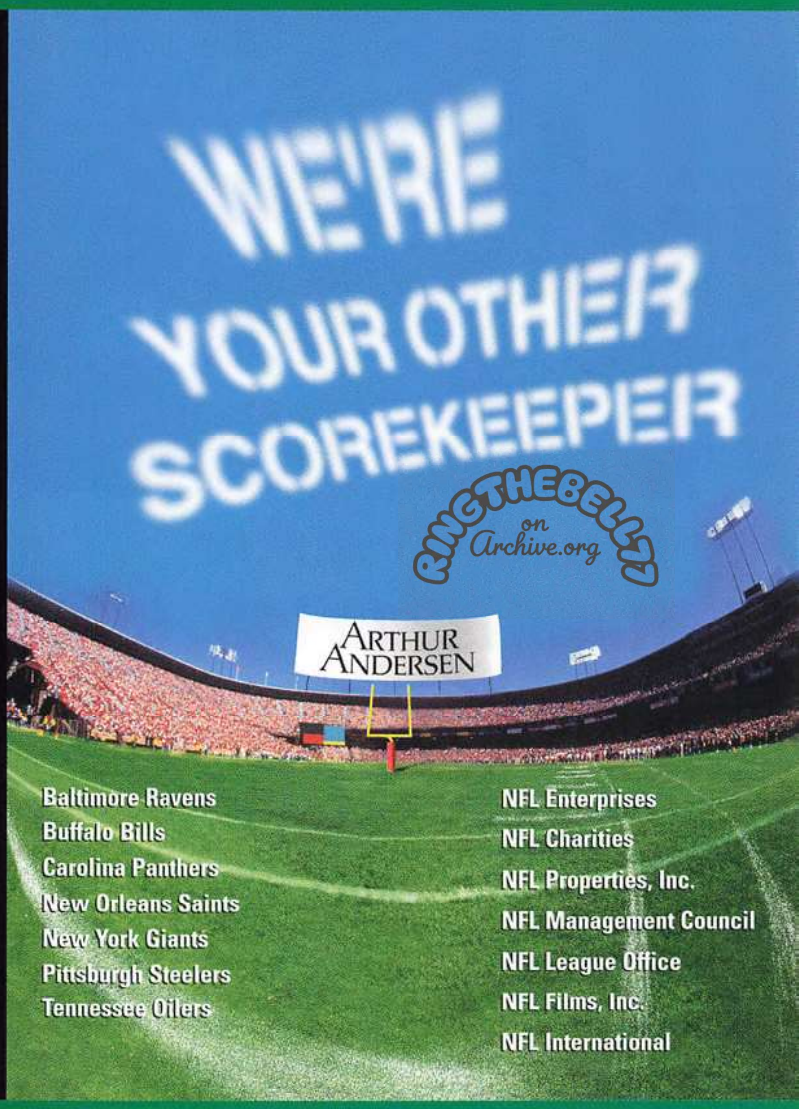

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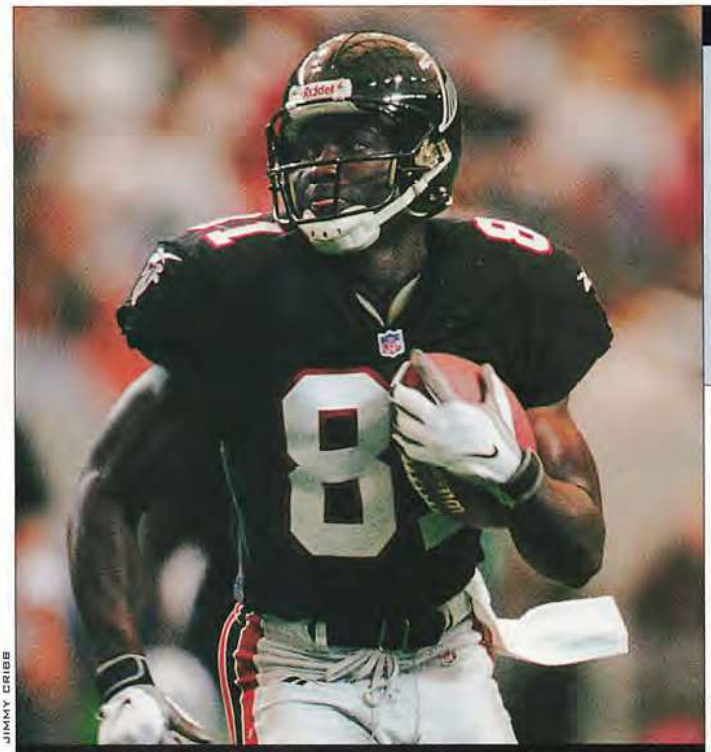
falcons PASSING VS DEFENSE broncos



JIMMY CRIBB

THE BOMB: Mathis had 9 receptions of 30 or more yards.

FALCONS/KEY FACTS

- Chris Chandler and 49ers quarterback Steve Young are the only players to record passer ratings better than 95.0 in each of the last two seasons.
- Chandler posted the highest average of yards per attempt (9.65) since 1957, when Cleveland's Tommy O'Connell set an NFL record by averaging 11.17 yards per attempt. Chandler's mark ranks eighth in NFL history.
- Chandler led the NFL with passer ratings of 121.2 in the fourth quarter and 109.6 in the red zone (inside the opponent's 20-yard line).
- Chandler has passed for 22 touchdowns and no interceptions in the red zone during his two seasons as a Falcon.

Fourth-Quarter Heroics? In '98, See Chandler, Not Elway

When it comes to fourth-quarter heroics, most fans tend to think of John Elway. But it was Falcons quarterback Chris Chandler who was the NFL's top-rated fourth-quarter passer this season. For confirmation, ask the Vikings. In 1998, Chandler had a 121.2 rating in the fourth quarter compared to his 100.9 passer rating overall (fourth in the NFL).

Not only did Chandler turn in the best statistical performance of his 11-year NFL career (passing for 3,154 yards and 25 touchdowns with only 12 interceptions), he emerged as a team leader who brought a winning attitude to Atlanta.

After less than stunning stints with Indianapolis, Tampa Bay, Phoenix, the Rams, and Houston, Chandler finally got his chance to be a full-time starter with the Falcons and has developed into a patient and poised quarterback, who led the NFL with an average of 9.65 yards per pass during the 1998 season.

If there is anything suspect about Chandler, it is his durability. Often injured in the past, he has taken a pounding this season and has stood up to it well. Atlanta's offensive line allowed 53 sacks during the regular season and gave up 2 to the 49ers and 3 to the Vikings in the playoffs. Chandler's linemen will have to do a better job against the Broncos. Much of the responsibility for protecting Chandler will fall on the left side of the Falcons' line, tackle Bob Whitfield and guard Calvin Collins. The critical matchups are Whitfield and Collins against Broncos' right defensive end and tackle Maa Tanuvasa and Trevor Pryce, who tied for the Denver team lead with 8½ sacks each. If Chandler does go down, the Falcons have an experienced backup in 45-year-old Steve DeBerg.

Chandler's lack of mobility contributes to Atlanta's sack problem, although he does have a good feel for the rush and can move well in the pocket to avoid it. Look for the Broncos to try to force Chandler to run by blitzing more on first and second down. Denver also could pressure Chandler out of the pocket by using an eight-man defensive front to challenge Atlanta center Robbie Tobeck, right guard Gene Williams, and right tackle Ephraim Salaam. Salaam also will have the unenviable task of handling Denver pass-rush specialist Neil Smith, who had 4 sacks in 1998.

FALCONS/PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Long	Sacked/ Yards	Rating
Chandler	327	190	58.1	3,154	9.65	25	7.6	12	3.7	78t	45/283	100.9
DeBerg	59	30	50.8	369	6.25	3	5.1	1	1.7	35t	6/60	80.4
Graziani	33	16	48.5	199	6.03	0	0.0	2	6.1	32	2/15	42.4
Dwight	2	1	50.0	22	11.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	22	0/0	89.6
J. Anderson	2	0	0.0	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0/0	39.6
Martin	1	0	0.0	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0/0	39.6

t-touchdown

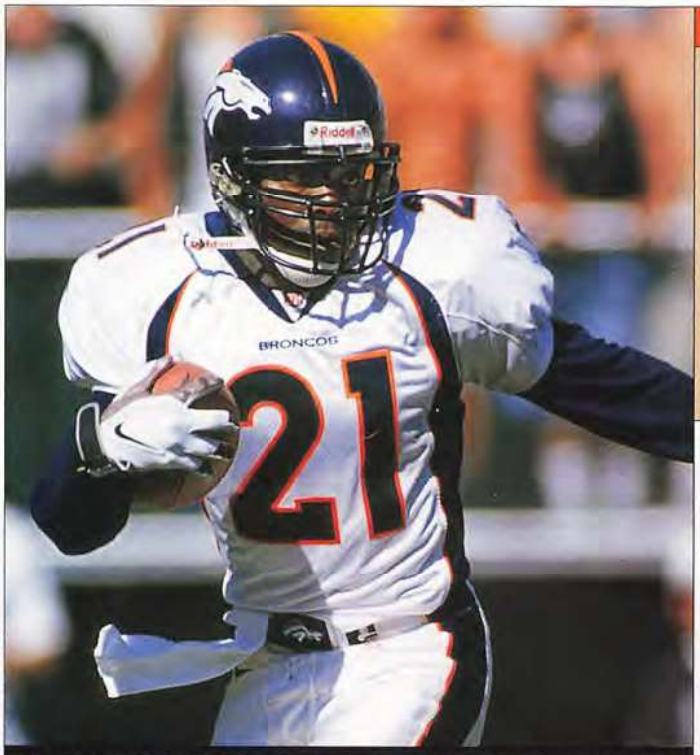
FALCONS/RECEIVING

	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Martin	66	1,181	17.9	62	6
Mathis	64	1,136	17.8	78t	11
Santiago	27	428	15.9	62t	5
J. Anderson	27	319	11.8	27	2
Christian	19	214	11.3	39	1
Kinchen	11	157	14.3	32	1
Kozlowski	10	103	10.3	25	1
Dwight	4	94	23.5	44t	1
Downs	4	31	7.8	11	0
Green	2	34	17.0	28	0
Chandler	1	22	22.0	22	0
Harris	1	14	14.0	14	0
Oxendine	1	11	11.0	11	0

t-touchdown

WHEN ATLANTA HAS THE BALL

falcons PASSING VS DEFENSE broncos



PETER BROUILLET

CORNER THE MARKET: Gordon had a team-high 4 interceptions.

BRONCOS/KEY FACTS

•Denver surrendered nearly 50 more passing yards per game in 1998 (228.0, up from 179.3 in '97) to fall from fifth in the NFL to twenty-sixth. Much of the increase, however, can be explained by the Broncos' dominance: Denver outscored opponents 300-141 in the first half, often forcing opponents to pass on every down in the second half. As a result, the Broncos faced 40.2 pass plays per game, up from 35.6 in '97.

•Though Denver recorded 47 sacks in 1998, 3 more than '97, opponents found a way to beat the Broncos' blitz. Denver ranked twenty-first in third-down efficiency (39.1 percent), compared to its NFL-best mark of 31.4 percent in '97.

Chandler has top-notch wide receivers in Tony Martin and Terance Mathis. They combined for a total of 2,317 yards to rank second only to Minnesota's Cris Carter and Randy Moss in the NFL. They had virtually identical seasons in number of receptions and receiving yards, but Mathis caught almost twice as many touchdown passes (11 to Martin's 6). Martin is the Falcons' speed receiver who has proven he can get deep on anyone and make the big catch. Mathis has tremendous quickness, runs crisp routes, rarely drops a ball, and runs well after a catch. Todd Kinchen, a wide receiver who also has good speed, sometimes lines up as a running back and throws the option pass in the red zone. And speaking of the red zone, Chandler has passed for 22 touchdowns with no interceptions inside the 20-yard line during his two years with the Falcons.

BRONCOS/INTERCEPTIONS

	Int.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Gordon	4	125	31.3	55t	1
Crockett	3	105	35.0	80t	1
Johnson	2	79	39.5	45	0
Romanowski	2	22	11.0	18	0
Cadrez	2	11	5.5	6	0
Braxton	1	72	72.0	72	0
Coghill	1	20	20.0	20	0
Atwater	1	4	4.0	4	0
N. Smith	1	2	2.0	2	0
Pryce	1	1	1.0	1	0
Mobley	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0

t-touchdown

Tight end O.J. Santiago has the size (6 feet 7 inches, 267 pounds) to make punishing catches over the middle and the speed to go deep. He is a major receiving threat downfield against much smaller defenders and is especially dangerous running crossing routes behind the linebackers and in front of the secondary. In 1998, Santiago caught 27 passes for 428 yards—a 15.8-yard average—and 5 touchdowns.

Much of Atlanta's passing success this season is a direct result of its success running the ball. Jamal Anderson's aggressive, nimble running forces defenses to bite on play-fakes to him. In addition, both Anderson and his backup, veteran Harold Green, are nifty receivers coming out of the backfield. Brian Kozlowski, a tough, aggressive lead blocker, is a former tight end with good hands.

The Broncos' secondary are solid tacklers, who do not allow receivers much yardage after a catch. The trouble is that this season they gave up far too many catches. Denver ranked twenty-sixth in the NFL in pass defense in 1998, allowing an average of 228 passing yards per game. The heavy hitter of the unit, in all senses of the term, is free safety Steve Atwater. A defensive leader, Atwater had an outstanding season after starring in last year's Super Bowl victory over Green Bay. Rookie Eric Brown earned the starting strong safety job in training camp and has overcome injuries to play well. Some scouts consider cornerbacks Ray Crockett and Darrien Gordon vulnerable, but Gordon had a great game against the Jets two weeks ago. Gordon, though, may not play because of a knee injury. Still, Atlanta may try to test the Denver cornerbacks by putting its wide receivers in motion and forcing the defenders to follow.

BRONCOS/SACKS

Pryce	8.5	Lodish	2.0
Tanuvasa	8.5	Traylor	2.0
Romanowski	7.5	Washington	2.0
Cadrez	4.0	Johnson	1.0
N. Smith	4.0	Mobley	1.0
Hasselbach	3.0	Crockett	0.5
Williams	3.0		

One Broncos defensive group that will test Atlanta will be linebackers John Mobley and Bill Romanowski on the outside and Glenn Cadrez on the inside. This is one of the most active and dangerous linebacking units in the league. The group is led by Romanowski, an intense, heads-up playmaker, who seems to be everywhere at once. His ability to stay with Santiago and pressure the passer is crucial to the Broncos' defense.

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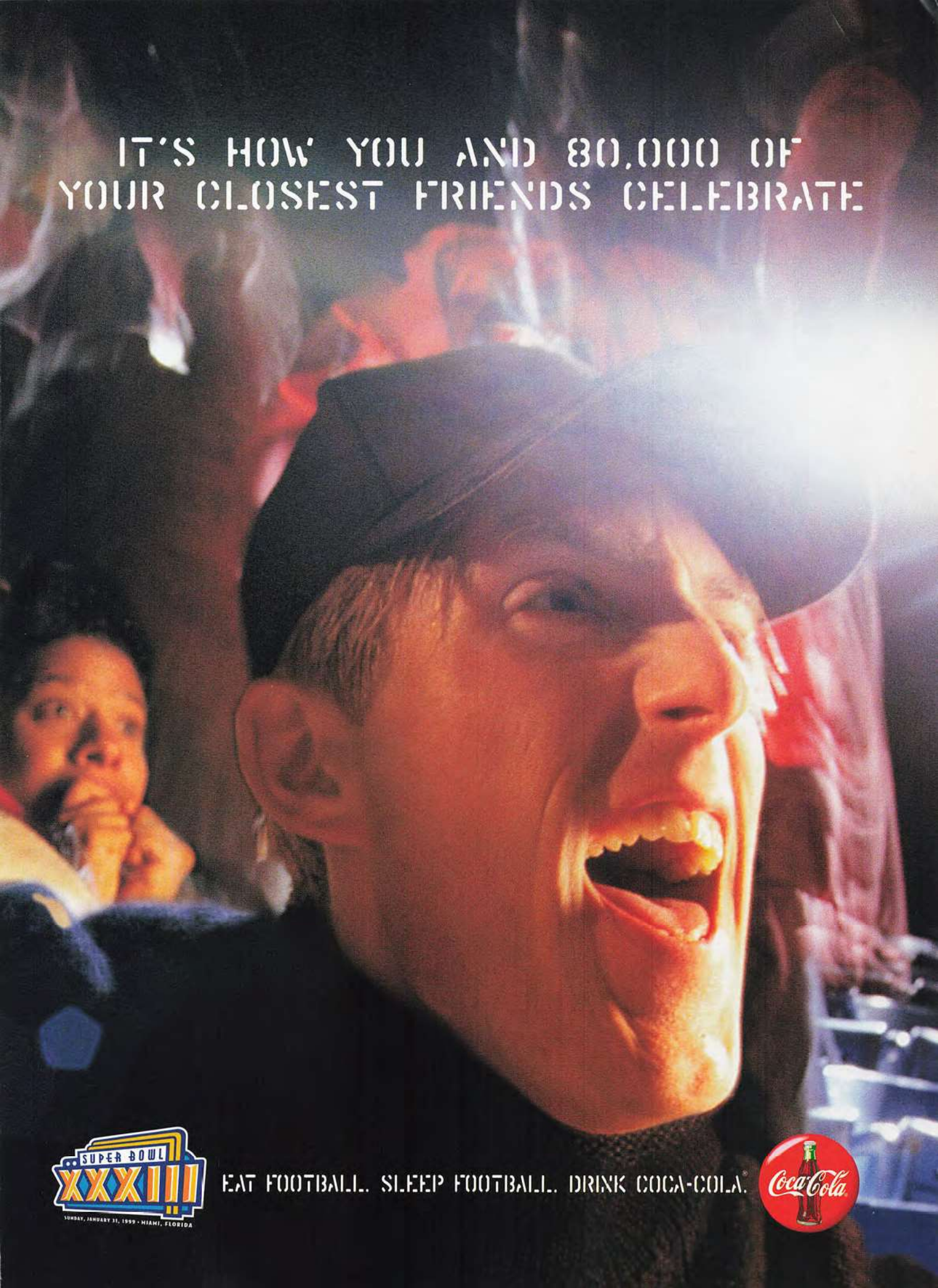
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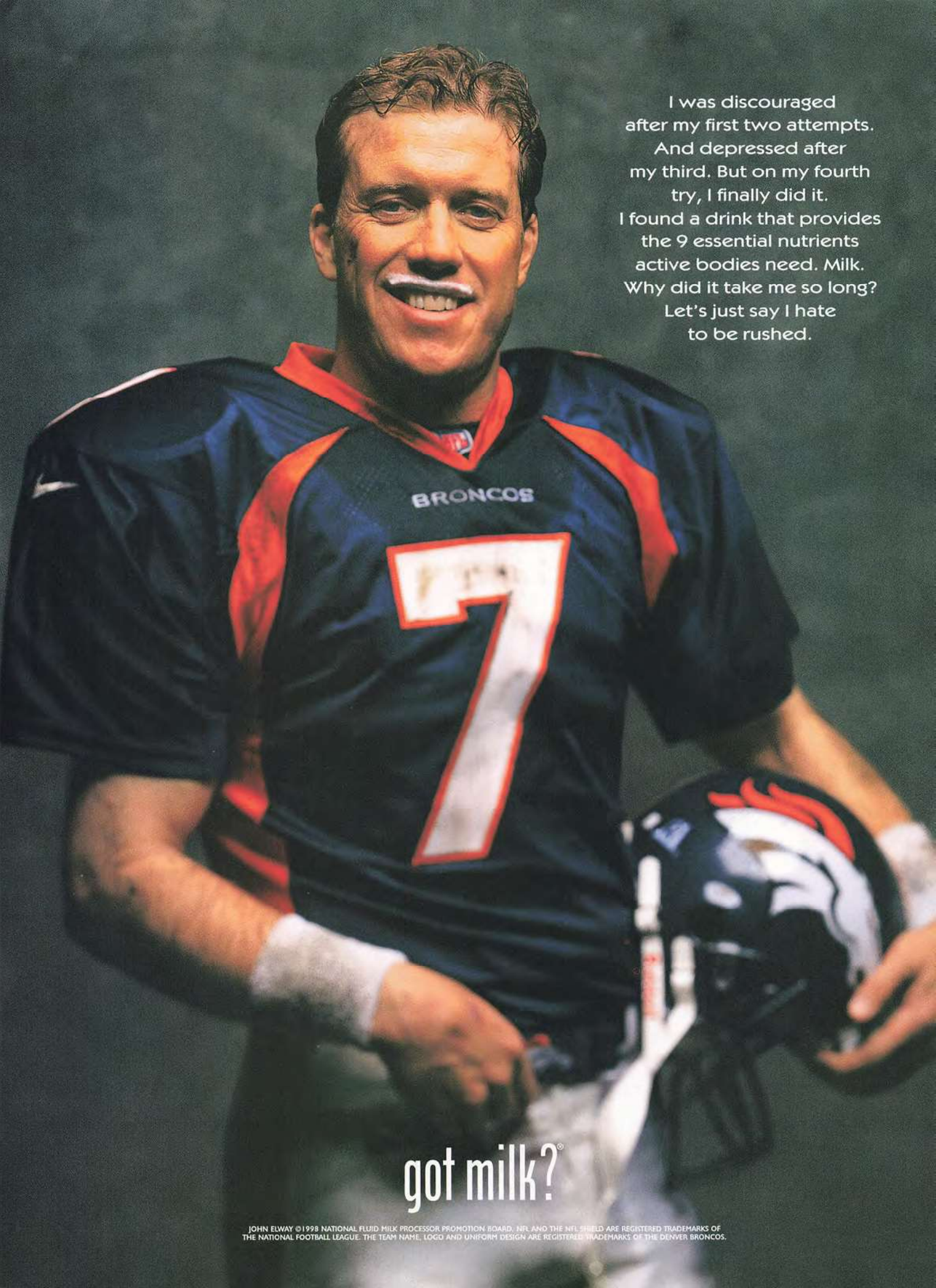

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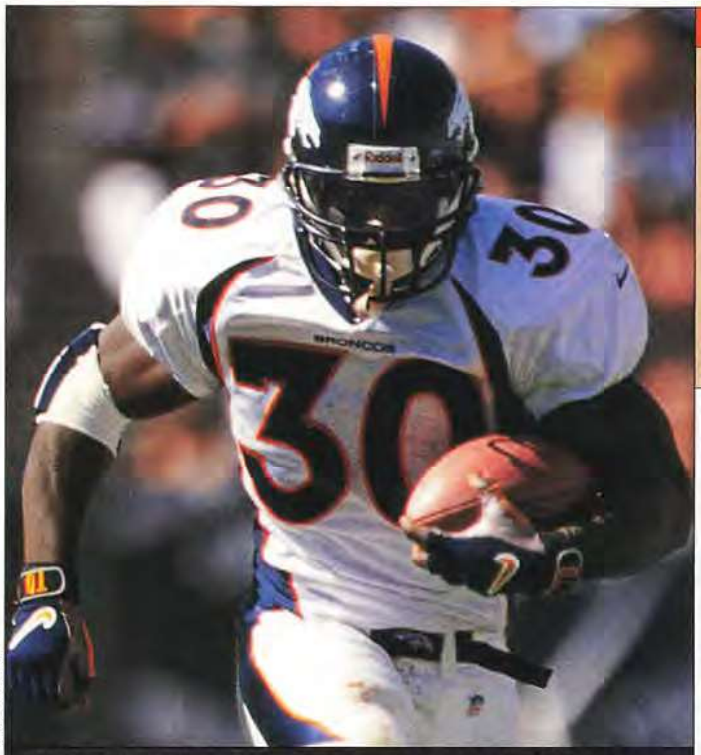

JON SOOHOO

TD: Pro football's top runner presents Atlanta with its toughest test.

Broncos Provide Biggest Test for Unheralded Falcons

No one can accuse the Atlanta Falcons of getting here the easy way.

The San Francisco 49ers had the NFL's number-one offense during the regular season. No problem. The Falcons did not blink, winning 20-18 in the divisional playoffs.

The Minnesota Vikings had the number-two offense and set a league record for points scored in a season. No problem. The Falcons won 30-27 in overtime in the NFC title game.

The Denver Broncos had the number-three offense during the regular season. Uh, this could pose a problem.

It could pose a problem because the Broncos have one thing neither the 49ers nor the Vikings have. His name is Terrell Davis. No knock on San Francisco's Garrison Hearst or Minnesota's Robert Smith—each team's featured running back had a marvelous season—but Davis proved in 1998 that he is in a class by himself.

The fourth-year running back followed up his Super Bowl XXXII most valuable player performance by rushing for 2,008 yards and 21 touchdowns. He is only the fourth player in NFL history (O.J. Simpson, Eric Dickerson, and Barry Sanders are the others) to rush for 2,000 yards in a season.

Davis, just a sixth-round draft choice out of Georgia in 1995, already has rushed for a franchise-record 6,413 yards. He gets much of it on his favorite rushing play, a toss to the weakside of the field. Davis heads outside, then has the option of cutting back, just as he did on the 31-yard touchdown run that gave the Broncos command late in the third quarter of the AFC Championship Game against the Jets.

Davis also gets much of his yardage as the game wears on. He is only 5 feet 11 inches, 210 pounds, but is remarkably strong and wears down his opponents.

Denver's offensive line wears down opponents, too. Though not as physically imposing as most offensive lines in the NFL, the Broncos' line is quick and aggressive, and implements offensive line coach Alex Gibbs's relatively straight-forward schemes to perfection.

The anchor is center Tom Nalen, who earned his second consecutive Pro Bowl berth this season. Tony Jones is at left tackle and Mark Schlereth at left guard. Each started Denver's victory over Green Bay in Super Bowl XXXII, though Jones moved over from right tackle to replace the retired Gary Zimmerman.

The right side, however, has new starters in tackle Harry Swayne and guard Dan Neil. Swayne is a veteran of the Chargers' Super Bowl XXIX squad.

Fullback Howard Griffith is one of the NFL's best lead blockers. He showed he also can be a force with the ball, however, catching the 11-yard touchdown pass from John Elway that started the Broncos' third-quarter rally two weeks ago against the Jets.

The Falcons counter with a defensive unit devoid of household

BRONCOS/KEY FACTS

- Terrell Davis's career postseason average of 148.2 yards per game is by far the highest in NFL history. Pro Football Hall of Fame running back John Riggins (110.7 per game) ranks second.
- Davis's career regular-season average of 105.1 rushing yards per game also is the highest in NFL history. Hall of Fame runner Jim Brown (104.3) ranks second.
- Denver averaged 32.8 rushing attempts per game, the second-highest average in the league.
- None of the Broncos' offensive linemen missed a start in 1998.

BRONCOS/RUSHING

	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Davis	392	2,008	5.1	70	21
Loville	53	161	3.0	12	2
Brister	19	102	5.4	38t	1
Elway	37	94	2.5	16	1
R. Smith	6	63	10.5	37	0
Hebron	9	31	3.4	8	1
Griffith	4	13	3.3	16	0
Rouen	1	0	0.0	0	0
Griese	4	-4	-1.0	0	0

t-touchdown

broncos RUSHING VS DEFENSE falcons

ALLEN KEE

BRONCO STOPS HERE: Ball carriers rarely escape Tuggle's grasp.

names. But head coach Dan Reeves and defensive coordinator Rich Brooks—the former Rams' head coach who took over for Reeves when he was sidelined following bypass surgery—have molded a unit that is cohesive in nature and opportunistic by design.

Atlanta finished eighth in the league in total defense in 1998, in large part because opponents managed a paltry 75.2 rushing yards per game (only San Diego allowed fewer).

The basic scheme is a 4-3 defense in which the defensive linemen take on the blockers and free up the linebackers to make the plays. Thus, inside linebacker Jessie Tuggle and outside linebacker Cornelius Bennett make most of the stops.

That is nothing new for the veteran Tuggle (114 tackles in 1998), who annually is among the team's top tacklers. Tuggle was not drafted out of Valdosta State and signed with Atlanta as a free agent in 1987. Two years later he was in the starting lineup for good and led the team in tackles for the first of nine consecutive years.

He finally was displaced this season by Bennett, who had the kind of year the Falcons' organization envisioned when it signed him as a free agent following the 1995 season. Bennett, a Pro Bowl selection five times in his nine years in Buffalo, had 121 tackles, including 1 sack, 11 quarterback pressures, 8 pass breakups, and 2 fumble recoveries.

The other outside linebacker is Henri Crockett, a fourth-round pick out of Florida State in 1997 who emerged as a steady starter during his rookie season.

FALCONS/KEY FACTS

•Atlanta's rushing defense, which ranked twenty-sixth (127.6 yards allowed per game) in 1996, improved to eighth (104.1) in Dan Reeves's first season as head coach and second (75.2) in 1998.

•Reeves's teams always have been ball hawks, and his 1998 Falcons are no exception, leading the NFL with 44 takeaways, including 25 fumble recoveries. Those takeaways led to 146 points.

•Atlanta limited its opponents to only 3.3 yards per rushing attempt, the second-lowest mark in the NFL and a marked improvement over 1997 (4.07, nineteenth in the league).

The linebackers make most of the headlines, but the key to the Falcons' defense is up front, where unheralded ends Chuck Smith and Lester Archambeau and tackles Travis Hall and Shane Dronett control the line of scrimmage. All are smart, hard-nosed players who give maximum effort on every down. They must be careful not to overrun Denver's sweeps, lest they get burned by Davis's cutbacks.

Smith is the closest thing to a star Atlanta has on the defensive line. Always a fierce pass rusher (he had 5 sacks against New Orleans in a 1997 game), Smith has made a conscious effort to become a complete player. He led the Falcons' defensive linemen with 82 tackles, including 8½ sacks. It was Smith's strip of Minnesota quarterback Randall Cunningham that helped turn momentum in Atlanta's favor just before halftime of the NFC Championship Game.

Do not be surprised to see Atlanta bring strong safety William White up to counter the Broncos' running attack. White is a hard hitter who provides excellent run support (he had 82 tackles in 1998).

Still, the Falcons' best chance against Denver is for their defense to create opportunities for their offense. Atlanta led the NFL with 25 fumble recoveries, 44 total takeaways, and a plus-20 turnover differential in 1998.

All this was enough to shut down San Francisco's running game in the divisional playoffs (Hearst was injured on the first play, and the 49ers managed only 55 yards on the ground) and Minnesota's in the NFC title game (Smith had 71 yards, but only 27 yards until a spurt late in the fourth quarter).

But will it be enough to stop the formidable Davis? The Falcons hope it is as simple as one, two, three.

FALCONS/TACKLES

	Solo	Assists	Total
Bennett	86	35	121
Tuggle	76	38	114
Robinson	52	42	94
White	46	38	84
Smith	58	24	82
Dronett	53	28	81
Archambeau	44	33	77
Buchanan	59	17	76
Hall	44	29	73
Booker	36	11	47
Bradford	33	7	40
Crockett	25	13	38
Sauer	27	9	36
Brooking	22	10	32
Burrough	10	22	32

Unofficial; compiled by the Falcons

WHEN DENVER HAS THE BALL

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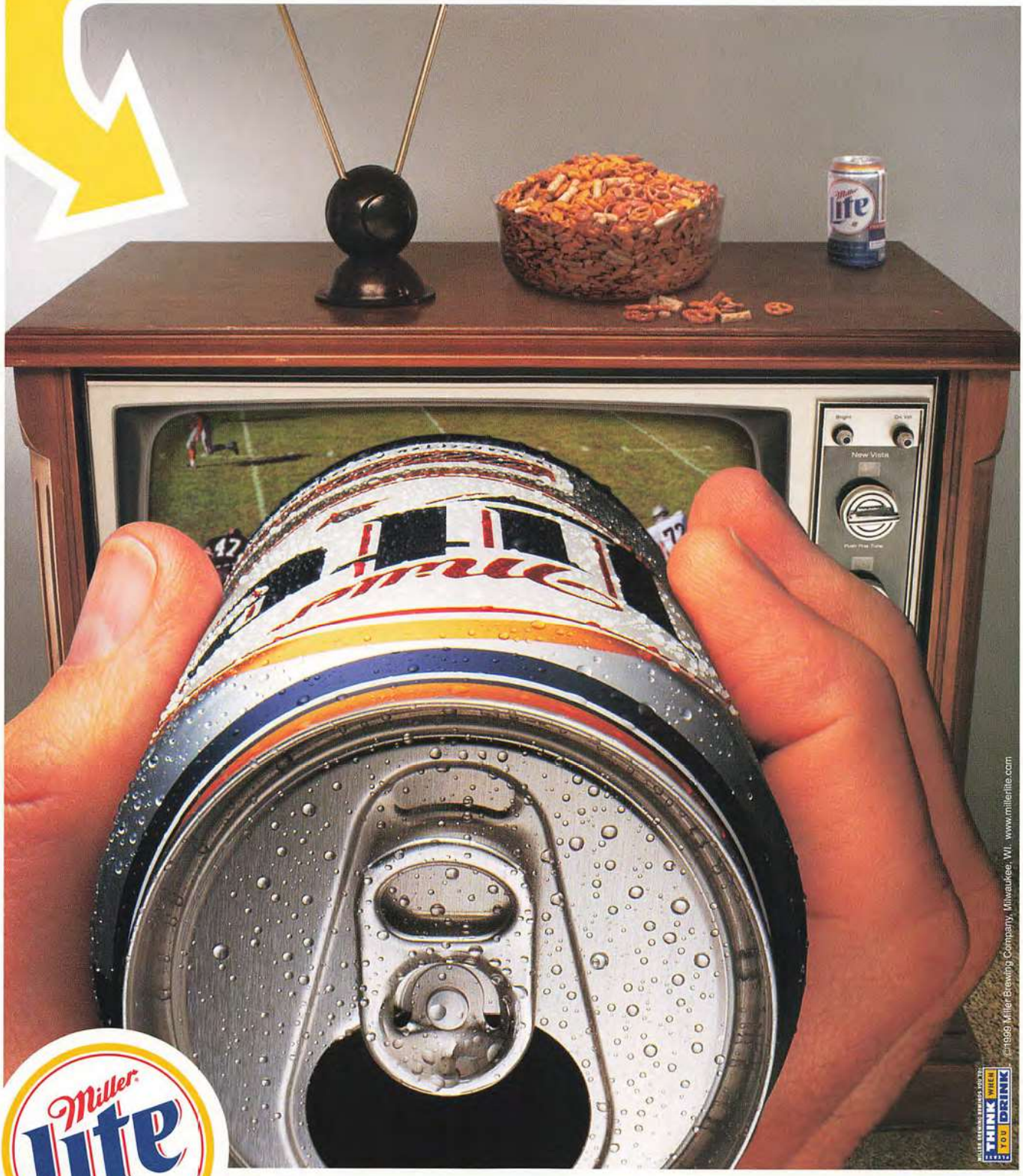
A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THIS YEAR'S SUPER BOWL

SUPER BOWL XXXIII



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falcons RUSHING VS DEFENSE broncos

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

ONE-BACK OFFENSE: Anderson keeps the Falcons grounded.

Falcons' Rushing Attack Is No Dirty Little Secret

Two words sum up the Atlanta Falcons' running game—Jamal Anderson. And while Denver surely knows who Anderson is, stopping him may be something else.

The 5-foot 11-inch, 234-pound Anderson serves as the foundation of Atlanta's ball-control offense. In 1998, he accounted for 88 percent of the Falcons' rushing yards and nearly 40 percent of the team's total yards.

Anderson set an NFL record with 410 carries and finished second in the league with a club-record and career-high 1,846 rushing yards. Only Broncos running back Terrell Davis had a more prolific season.

For the third consecutive year, Anderson topped 1,000 yards. Quarterback Chris Chandler ranked second on the team with 121 rushing yards on 36 carries.

Anderson also made his yards count. His 14 rushing touchdowns led the NFC and tied for second in the NFL, and he ranked first in the conference and second in the league with 90 runs that produced first downs for Atlanta.

The Falcons, who had the NFC's third-best rushing offense and the league's sixth best, did not plan to have Anderson, a seventh-round draft choice from Utah in 1994, carry such a heavy load before the season began. But a season-ending knee injury in the preseason to 1997 second-round pick Byron Hanspard made Anderson the team's lone option.

One of the keys to Anderson's success was the blocking of fullback Bob Christian, a free agent from Carolina in 1997. Christian carried the ball only 8 times for 21 yards, but his blocking helped Anderson rush for 100 or more yards in 10 games, including a club-record 203 yards against the Rams. Christian, however, suffered a season-ending knee injury in week 15.

Converted tight end Brian Kozlowski replaced Christian, and Anderson did not miss a beat. He ran for 147 and 103 yards in the final two regular-season games, and for 113 and 2 touchdowns in the Falcons' divisional playoff victory over San Francisco.

Heading into the playoffs, the big question facing the Falcons was how they would fare if Anderson was contained. In the NFC Championship Game against the Vikings, they found out. Anderson carried the ball 23 times, but Minnesota's defense held him to 67 yards (an average of just 2.9 yards per carry).

So Atlanta turned to the pass, and quite effectively. Anderson even tied for the team lead with 6 receptions, including 1 of Chandler's 3 touchdown passes, in the 30-27 overtime victory.

The Broncos' rushing defense enters the Super Bowl on a roll. Denver allowed a total of 28 rushing yards in its two playoff games.

Miami's star running back, Karim Abdul-Jabbar, gained just 5 yards in the Broncos' divisional playoff victory. And in the AFC Championship Game, Denver limited Pro Bowl running back Curtis Martin and the

FALCONS/KEY FACTS

•Jamal Anderson set an NFL record with 410 carries in 1998, leading a Falcons' offense that held the ball for a league-high average of 33 minutes 10 seconds per game.

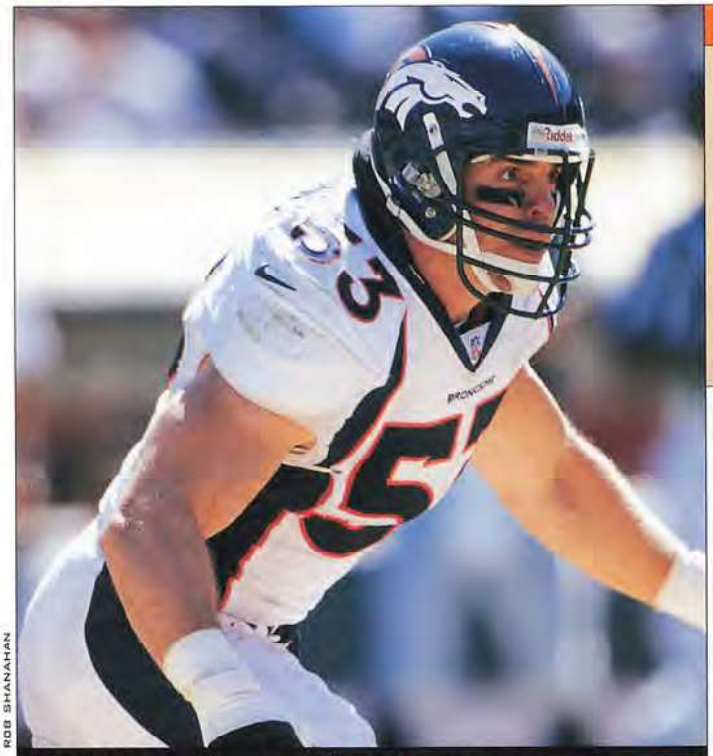
•Anderson did not wear down from all those carries. Indeed, just the opposite. The Falcons' runner gained 713 yards (3.75-yard average) in the first and second quarters, and 1,133 yards (5.15-yard average) in the third and fourth quarters. Anderson finished the regular season with five consecutive 100-yard games.

•Anderson has eight runs of 30 or more yards, including five this year.

FALCONS/RUSHING

	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
J. Anderson	410	1,846	4.5	48	14
Chandler	36	121	3.4	19	2
Oxendine	18	50	2.8	21	0
Green	20	37	1.9	6	0
Christian	8	21	2.6	6	2
Graziani	4	21	5.3	12	0
Dwight	8	19	2.4	7	0
Downs	1	4	4.0	4	0
E. Williams	2	-2	-1.0	2	0
Mathis	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0
DeBerg	8	-10	-1.2	2	0

falcons RUSHING VS DEFENSE broncos



ROB SHANAHAN

ROMO COP: Mr. Intensity makes his fourth Super Bowl appearance.

rest of the Jets' runners to just 14 yards, the fewest ever for a team in the AFC title game.

Although Denver slipped from the AFC's top overall defense in 1997 to seventh in the conference in 1998, the run defense excelled. The Broncos held their opponents to 80.4 rushing yards per game and 3.6 yards per carry to rank second in the AFC and third in the NFL.

Only twice this season did Denver allow a running back to rush for more than 100 yards. Cincinnati's Corey Dillon ran for 110 yards in a loss to the Broncos, and the Giants' Gary Brown had 112 rushing yards in New York's 20-16 victory.

The emotional leaders of the Broncos' defense are linebacker Bill Romanowski and safety Steve Atwater. In their eleventh and tenth NFL seasons, respectively, Romanowski (third on the team in tackles) and Atwater (Denver's fourth-leading tackler) are punishing hitters. Each was selected to the Pro Bowl.

Outside linebacker John Mobley, Denver's 1996 first-round draft choice, was the team's leading tackler and is an emerging star. Middle linebacker Glenn Cadrez, a former free agent who became a full-time starter for the first time in his seven-year career, was second on the team in tackles.

Although Denver's defensive linemen seem small (they average 287 pounds), they are extremely quick. Broncos defensive coordinator Greg Robinson uses a variety of formations and stunts to keep opponents off balance.

Defensive end Neil Smith, an excellent run defender and six-time Pro Bowl selection, is the elder statesman of the defensive line. However, injuries have limited his playing time since the fourteenth game of the season, and Harald Hasselbach, a free agent from the University of Washington and former Canadian Football League player, has been starting in Smith's place.

Defensive tackle Trevor Pryce, a first-round draft choice in 1997, and free agents Keith Traylor and Maa Tanuvasa are aggressive players who round out the starting front four.

The Falcons' offensive line, which averages 304 pounds, also is comprised of relatively unheralded players and should match up well against Denver. Left tackle Bob Whitfield was the team's first-round draft choice in 1992. Guard Calvin Collins, a sixth-round pick in 1997, and tackle Ephraim Salaam, a seventh-round pick in 1998, start alongside center Robbie Tobeck, who signed as a free agent in 1993. Guard Gene Williams rounds out the line.

Offensive line coach Art Shell, a former head coach of the Raiders and Pro Football Hall of Fame tackle, has done a brilliant job in turning the Falcons' offensive line into a cohesive and gritty unit.

The Falcons' offensive line tries to seal the defensive linemen to one side, allowing Anderson to follow the blocks or cut back against the grain. Anderson prefers to run left, behind Whitfield. Tight end O.J. Santiago is more of a receiver than a blocker, but the Falcons stay with him because Kozlowski, a better blocker, had to move to fullback.

Anderson knows that as he goes, so go the Falcons. And the powerful runner, who squats 670 pounds and bench presses 465, would not want it any other way.

BRONCOS/KEY FACTS

- Thanks to Denver's offense, which usually started fast and built big leads, the Broncos' defense faced only 22.3 rushing attempts per game in 1998, the fewest in the NFL.
- Denver's defense, which allowed a league-worst 4.73 yards per rushing attempt in 1997, improved dramatically in 1998. The Broncos limited opposing runners to 3.62 yards per carry to rank seventh in the NFL.
- John Mobley led the Broncos in tackles for the second consecutive year.
- Defensive tackle Mike Lodish appears in his record sixth Super Bowl. He played in four Super Bowls with the Bills and XXXII with Denver.

BRONCOS/TACKLES

	Solo	Assists	Total
Mobley	105	27	132
Cadrez	76	29	105
Romanowski	71	24	95
Atwater	55	30	85
Gordon	61	13	74
Crockett	61	7	68
Pryce	48	11	59
Braxton	43	14	57
Tanuvasa	47	6	53
Traylor	40	9	49
E. Brown	29	14	43
Johnson	35	4	39
N. Smith	25	13	38
Washington	27	6	33
Hasselbach	24	3	27

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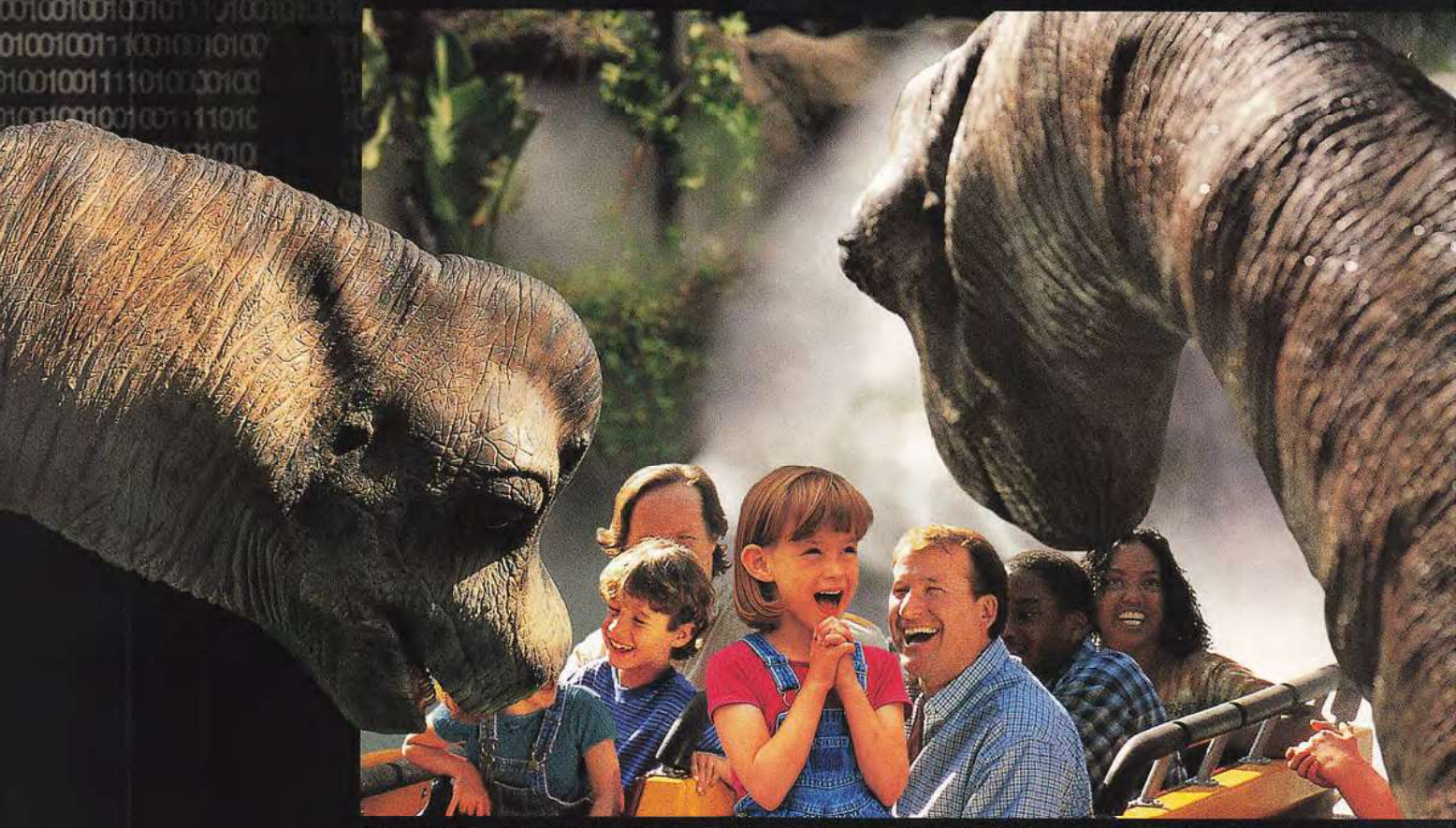

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broncos SPECIAL TEAMS VS falcons SPECIAL TEAMS

DIANE JOHNSON

A LEG UP: Elam is the NFL's leading scorer since 1993.

BRONCOS/KEY FACTS

•Vaughn Hebron's 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against the Dolphins on December 21, 1998, ended a Broncos' streak of 1,362 kickoff returns without a score. The last Denver player to return a kickoff for a score before Hebron was Randy Montgomery on September 24, 1972.

•Tom Rouen averaged 46.9 yards per punt to rank second in the NFL. Twice in the postseason, however, he had punts blocked. The first one, in a 1997 playoff game against Jacksonville, resulted in a touchdown for the Jaguars. The second one set up the Jets' lone touchdown in the AFC Championship Game.

Elam and Gordon Get Headlines, but Hebron May Be Star

The biggest news for Denver's special teams in 1998 came on October 25, when Jason Elam equaled Tom Dempsey's NFL record with a 63-yard field goal against the Jaguars. Big kicks are nothing new for Elam, who booted a 51-yard field goal in Super Bowl XXXII, the second-longest in Super Bowl history.

Though Elam missed his last 3 field-goal attempts during the regular season, he connected on all 4 of his attempts in the playoffs, including 3 in a strong Mile High Stadium wind during the AFC Championship Game. With Elam having regained his record-tying form, Pete Stoyanovich's NFL postseason mark for longest field goal (58 yards, at Pro Player Stadium) is in jeopardy.

When Elam lines up to kick, the Broncos must worry about two Falcons players. Travis Hall blocked 3 extra-point attempts this season, and Shane Dronett has blocked 7 field-goal attempts in his career. Elam has had 5 field-goal attempts and 1 extra-point attempt blocked in his six-year career.

Kick returner Vaughn Hebron was explosive at times, finishing third in the AFC, and fifth in the NFL, with a 26.4-yard average. Hebron returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown in Miami, the site of Super Bowl XXXIII, in week 16. Hebron, who has an aggressive return style, does an excellent job of finding the smallest of holes in the wedge.

The Broncos' main punt returner, Darrien Gordon, sprained his right knee returning an interception in the final moments of the AFC Championship Game. Gordon, who entered the 1998 season as the NFL's all-time leading punt returner (13.6 yards per return), had a subpar season, averaging just 11.1 yards per return. This may be attributed more to the Broncos' inability to block for Gordon than to a decline in his return ability. When healthy, Gordon still is one of the game's best, as his 36-yard return against the Jets in the title game proved. If Gordon is injured, the Broncos may use Rod Smith, who averaged 12.3 yards per return in 1996 but has returned just 1 punt the past two seasons.

The Falcons limited opponents to an average start at the 24-yard line, seventh best in the league. Morten Andersen had 20 touchbacks among his 91 regular-season kickoffs, with 6 of his 12 postseason kickoffs unreturnable. But the Falcons' special teams were undisciplined at times, resulting in some long returns.

Dan Stryzinski is an excellent punter. Just 20 of his 74 regular-season punts, and 1 of his 7 postseason punts, were returned. Led by former Tulane basketball player Ruffin Hamilton's 15 special-teams tackles, the Falcons limited opponents to 5.6 yards per punt return.

BRONCOS/SPECIAL TEAMS

Punting	No.	Yards	Avg.	In 20	TB	Long	Blocked	Net Avg.
Rouen	66	3,097	46.9	14	10	76	1	37.6

Punt Returns	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Gordon	34	6	379	11.1	44	0
Coghill	3	2	20	6.7	8	0
Paul	1	0	0	0.0	0	0

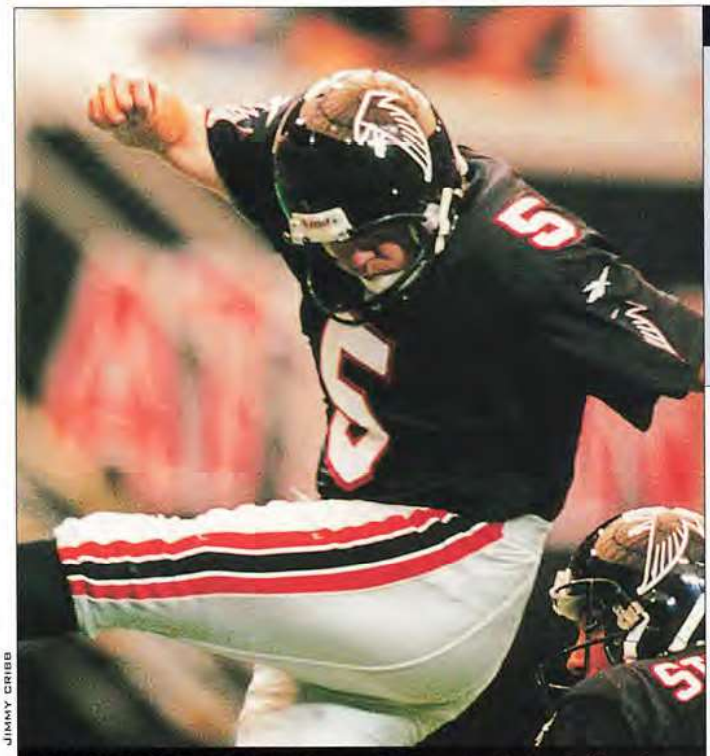
Kickoff Returns	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Hebron	46	1,216	26.4	95*t*	1
Loville	6	105	17.5	25	0
D. Smith	3	51	17.0	21	0
Burns	2	17	8.5	17	0
Tanuvasa	1	13	13.0	13	0

Kicking	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	FG/Att.	PAT/Att.	Pts.
Elam	0/0	3/3	13/14	4/6	3/4	23/27	58/58	127

t-touchdown

WHEN DENVER HAS THE BALL

falcons SPECIAL TEAMS VS SPECIAL TEAMS broncos



JIMMY CRIBB

CLUTCH SHOT: Andersen has made 26 game-winning field goals.

FALCONS/KEY FACTS

- Morten Andersen is the third-leading scorer (1,761) in NFL history. He also ranks second in field goals (401), first in 50-yard field goals (35), and has been named to seven Pro Bowls, the most by any kicker. One accomplishment not on his résumé, however, is a field-goal attempt at Pro Player Stadium, site of today's game.
- Andersen attempted just 4 field goals on grass this season, making 3. His only miss came on a 47-yard attempt that the Patriots blocked.
- Atlanta's punt-coverage unit limited opponents to 5.6 yards per return, the second-best mark in the NFL.

Though Underrated, Falcons' Special Teams Have Been Pivotal

The Falcons' underrated special teams played a pivotal role in the team's success this season. From the reliable kicking of Morten Andersen, to the booming punts of Dan Stryzinski, and the fearless returns of rookie Tim Dwight, these units generated points and consistently put the team in a position to win games. Andersen, who has kicked more 50-yard field goals (35) in his career than any other kicker, is the epitomé of a clutch player. In addition to his game winner in the NFC Championship Game, he connected on 23 of 28 (82.1 percent) field goals and 51 of 52 extra-point attempts during the regular season for a total of 120 points.

Stryzinski is a strong-legged punter who strives for hang time more than distance. He was second in the league in forcing fair catches (29).

Dwight is an aggressive runner who never met a kick he did not want to return. But in order to give their offense good field position, the Falcons' special teams need to improve their blocking on his punt returns. In what simply breaks down to a matter of blocking, Dwight finished twentieth in the league on punt returns with an average of 8.5 yards per return.

Denver punter Tom Rouen finished second in the NFL, averaging 46.9 yards per punt. However, his net average was just 37.6 yards, and he had just 14 punts downed inside the 20-yard line, compared to 10 touchbacks. Rouen also had a punt blocked in the AFC Championship Game, which led to the Jets' only touchdown, and he fumbled another snap.

On kickoffs, Dwight averaged 27.0 yards per return, third in the league, while as a team the Falcons averaged 25.2 yards per return (second in the NFL). The latter figure could improve against Denver because the average drive for Broncos opponents begins at the 27. The punt-return average could be a factor in today's game because the Broncos finished twelfth in the league by allowing only 8.9 yards per return. It is imperative that the Falcons maintain their blocks on Keith Burns, Anthony Lynn, and Detron Smith. This trio accounted for 48 tackles for the Broncos' special teams.

The Broncos' kick-coverage units were somewhat inconsistent this season, finishing eighteenth in the league by allowing 22.5 yards per return. As his 63-yard record-tying boot would indicate, Jason Elam has a strong leg. However, just 8 of his 87 regular-season kickoffs were touchbacks, which is not a high total considering half of his games are played in the thin air of Mile High Stadium.

FALCONS/SPECIAL TEAMS

Punting	No.	Yards	Avg.	In 20	TB	Long	Blocked	Net Avg.
Stryzinski	74	2,963	40.0	25	7	55	0	36.6

Punt Returns	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Dwight	31	13	263	8.5	23	0
Kinchen	6	5	38	6.3	9	0
Harris	1	6	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Buchanan	1	0	4	4.0	4	0
Mathis	1	0	0	0.0	0	0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Dwight	36	973	27.0	93t	1
E. Williams	7	132	18.9	28	0
Green	1	24	24.0	24	0
Harris	1	16	16.0	16	0
Kozlowski	1	12	12.0	12	0

Kicking	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	FG/Att.	PAT/Att.	Pts
Andersen	0/1	8/9	7/7	6/9	2/2	23/28	51/52	120

t-touchdown

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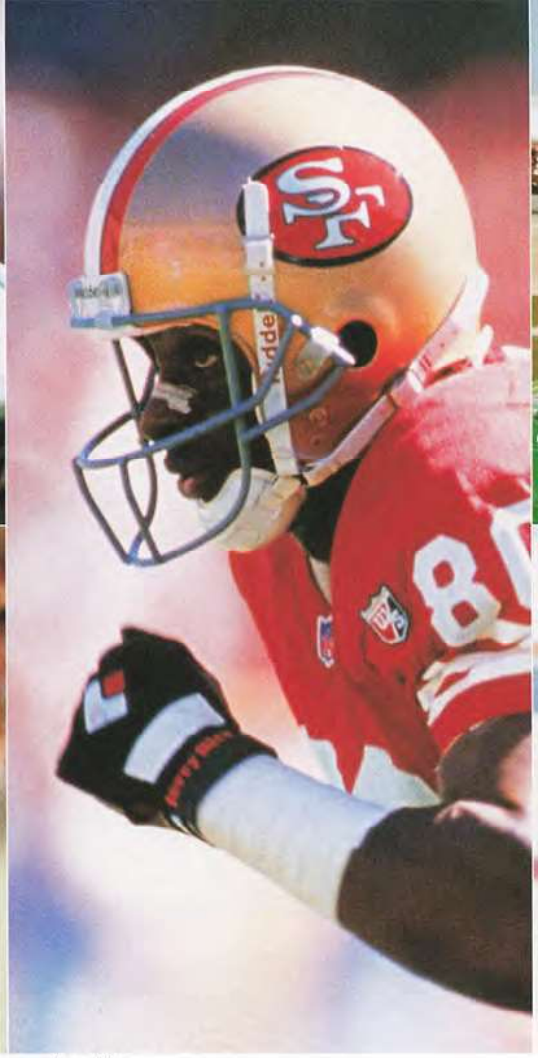

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COACHING STAFF

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach

Mike Shanahan

Pro Career: Shanahan became the eleventh head coach in Broncos history in 1995, coming to Denver from the 1994 world champion San Francisco 49ers, where he served as offensive coordinator from 1992-94. Shanahan led the Broncos to their first world championship last year with a 31-24 victory over the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl XXXII. His 1997 Broncos became just the second wild-card team to win the Super Bowl, and the first AFC team to win the NFL title in 14 years. In 1996 Shanahan led the Broncos to a 13-3 record and the AFC Western Division title, following an 8-8 season in 1995. San Francisco's three-year offensive average under Shanahan's direction was the most-productive in the history of pro football. During his NFL career, Shanahan has made five Super Bowl appearances, including four with Denver. A driving force behind the Broncos' offense for all three of the team's Super Bowl appearances in the 1980s (following the '86, '87, and '89 seasons), he first came to Denver in 1984 as wide receivers coach. Shanahan was Broncos' offensive coordinator from 1985-87, and returned to Denver as quarterbacks coach in October, 1989, after serving as head coach of the Los Angeles Raiders in 1988 and through the first four games of the 1989 season. Career record: 61-30.

Background: Shanahan began his coaching career at Oklahoma in 1975-76. He coached at Northern Arizona (1977), Eastern Illinois (1978), Minnesota (1979), and Florida (1980-83). Shanahan's teams had a combined record of 77-29-3 (.720), including national championship seasons at Oklahoma in 1975 and at Eastern Illinois in 1978.

Personal: Shanahan was born in Oak Park, Illinois, on August 24, 1952. He attended East Leyden High School in Franklin Park and was a wishbone quarterback/defensive back at Eastern Illinois, graduating in 1974 with a degree in physical education and a master's degree in 1975. Mike and his wife, Peggy, have two children, son Kyle and daughter Krystal.

ASSISTANT COACHES

Frank Bush, linebackers; born January 10, 1963, Athens, Georgia, lives in Englewood, Colorado. Linebacker North Carolina State 1981-84. Pro linebacker Houston Oilers 1985-86. Pro coach: Houston Oilers 1992-94, joined Broncos in 1995.

Barney Chavous, assistant offensive line-assistant strength and conditioning; born March 22, 1951, Aiken, South Carolina, lives in Englewood, Colorado. Defensive end South Carolina State 1969-1972. Pro defensive end Denver Broncos 1973-1985. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1989.

Rick Dennison, special teams; born June 22, 1958, in Kalispell, Montana, lives in Englewood, Colorado. Tight end Colorado State 1976-79. Pro linebacker Denver Broncos 1982-1990. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1995.

Ed Donatell, defensive backs; born February 4, 1957, Akron, Ohio, lives in Littleton, Colorado. Safety Glenville State 1975-78. No pro playing experience. College coach: Kent State 1979-1980, Washington 1981-82, Pacific 1983-85, Idaho 1986-88, Cal State-Fullerton 1989. Pro coach: New York Jets 1990-94, joined Broncos in 1995.

George Dyer, defensive line; born May 4, 1940, Alhambra, California, lives in Aurora, Colorado. Center-linebacker UC Santa Barbara 1961-63. No pro playing experience. College coach: Humboldt State 1964-66, Coalinga (Calif.) J.C. 1967 (head coach), Portland State 1968-1971, Idaho 1972, San Jose State 1973, Michigan State 1977-79, Arizona State 1980-81. Pro coach: Winnipeg Blue Bombers (CFL) 1974-76, Buffalo Bills 1982, Seattle Seahawks 1983-1991, Los Angeles Rams 1992-94, joined Broncos in 1995.

Alex Gibbs, assistant head coach-offensive line; born February 11, 1941, Morganton, North Carolina, lives in Greenwood Village, Colorado. Running back-defensive back Davidson College 1959-1963. No pro playing experience. College coach: Duke 1969-1970, Kentucky 1971-72, West Virginia 1973-74, Ohio State 1975-78, Auburn 1979-1981, Georgia 1982-83. Pro coach: Denver Broncos 1984-87, Los Angeles Raiders 1988-89, San Diego Chargers 1990-91, Indianapolis Colts 1992, Kansas City Chiefs 1993-94, rejoined Broncos in 1995.

Mike Heimerdinger, wide receivers; born October 13, 1952, DeKalb, Illinois, lives in Englewood, Colorado. Wide receiver Eastern Illinois 1970-74. No pro playing experience. College coach: Florida 1980, Air Force 1981, North Texas State 1982, Florida 1983-87, Cal State-Fullerton 1988, Rice 1989-1993, Duke 1994. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1995.

Gary Kubiak, offensive coordinator-quarterbacks; born August 15, 1961, Houston, lives in Englewood, Colorado. Quarterback Texas A&M 1979-1982. Pro quarterback Denver Broncos 1983-1991. College coach: Texas A&M 1992-93. Pro coach: San Francisco 49ers 1994, joined Broncos in 1995.

Pat McPherson, defensive assistant; born April 15, 1969, Santa Clara, California, lives in Englewood, Colorado. Linebacker Santa Clara 1991-92. No pro playing experience. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1998.

Brian Pariani, tight ends; born July 2, 1965, San Francisco, lives in Castle Pines, Colorado. No college or pro playing experience. College coach: UCLA 1989. Pro coach: San Francisco 49ers 1991-94, joined Broncos in 1995.

Ricky Porter, offensive assistant; born January 14, 1960, Sylacaga, Alabama, lives in Englewood, Colorado. Running back Slippery Rock 1978-1981. Pro running back Detroit Lions 1982, Baltimore Colts 1983, Memphis Showboats (USFL) 1985, Montreal Alouettes (CFL) 1986-87, Buffalo Bills 1987. College coach: Slippery Rock 1990-91, Kent 1992-93. Pro coach: Tampa Bay Buccaneers 1996, joined Broncos in 1997.

Greg Robinson, defensive coordinator; born October 9, 1951, Los Angeles, lives in Aurora, Colorado. Linebacker-tight end Pacific 1972-74. No pro playing experience. College coach: Pacific 1975-76, Cal State-Fullerton 1977-79, North Carolina State 1980-81, UCLA 1982-89. Pro coach: New York Jets 1990-94, joined Broncos in 1995.

Greg Saporta, assistant strength/conditioning; born February 2, 1957, New York, lives in Englewood, Colorado. Wide receiver Buffalo State 1977-79. No pro playing experience. College coach: Florida 1981-88, 1993-94, North Carolina 1989-1992. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1995.

Rick Smith, defensive assistant; born September 3, 1969, Petersburg, Virginia, lives in Aurora, Colorado. Safety Purdue 1987-1991. No pro playing experience. College coach: Purdue 1992-95. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1996.

John Teerlinck, pass rush specialist; born April 9, 1951, Rochester, New York, lives in Englewood, Colorado. Defensive lineman Western Illinois 1970-73. Pro defensive tackle San Diego Chargers 1974-76. College coach: Iowa Lakes J.C. 1977, Eastern Illinois 1978-79, Illinois 1980-82. Pro coach: Chicago Blitz (USFL) 1983, Arizona Wranglers/Outlaws (USFL) 1984-85, Cleveland Browns 1989-1990, Los Angeles Rams 1991, Minnesota Vikings 1992-94, Detroit Lions 1995-96, joined Broncos in 1997.

Bobby Turner, running backs; born May 6, 1949, East Chicago, Indiana, lives in Englewood, Colorado. Defensive back Indiana State 1968-1971. No pro playing experience. College coach: Indiana State 1975-1982, Fresno State 1983-88, Ohio State 1989-1990, Purdue 1991-94. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1995.

Rich Tuten, strength and conditioning; born December 30, 1953, Columbia, South Carolina, lives in Englewood, Colorado. Nose guard Clemson 1976-78. No pro playing experience. College coach: Florida 1979-1988, 1993-94, North Carolina 1989-92. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1995.

HOW THE BRONCOS WERE BUILT

1983 • 9-8 **3rd AFC West**	Trade: QB John Elway (from Baltimore Colts)
1989 • 13-6 **AFC Champions**	Draft: S Steve Atwater (1)
1990 • 5-11 **5th AFC West**	Draft: TE Shannon Sharpe (7)
1993 • 9-8 **3rd AFC West**	Draft: K Jason Elam (3b) Free Agent: P Tom Rouen
1994 • 7-9 **4th AFC West**	Draft: LB Keith Burns (7a), C Tom Nalen (7c) Free Agent: TE Dwayne Carswell, CB Ray Crockett, DE Harald Hasselbach, WR Rod Smith
1995 • 8-8 **4th AFC West**	Draft: RB Terrell Davis (6b), TE Byron Chamberlain (7b) Free Agent: S Tyrone Braxton, LB Glenn Cadrez, WR Ed McCaffrey, G Mark Schlereth, DT Maa Tanuvasa
1996 • 13-4 **1st AFC West**	Draft: LB John Mobley (1), CB Tory James (2), Detron Smith (3a), CB Darrius Johnson (4b) Free Agent: G-C David Diaz-Infante, RB Vaughn Hebron, DT Mike Lodish, LB Bill Romanowski, DE Alfred Williams
1997 • 16-4 **Super Bowl XXXII** **Champions**	Draft: DT Trevor Pryce (1), G Dan Neil (3) Free Agent: G Chris Banks, QB Bubby Brister, S George Coghill, CB Darrien Gordon, WR Willie Green, RB Howard Griffith, C K.C. Jones, T Matt Lepsis, RB Derek Loville, RB Anthony Lynn, DE Neil Smith, T Harry Swayne, DT Keith Traylor Trade: Tony Jones (from Baltimore)
1998 • 16-2 **AFC Champions**	Draft: WR Marcus Nash (1), S Eric Brown (2), QB Brian Griese (3), T Trey Teague (7a), LB Nate Wayne (7b) Free Agent: WR Justin Armour, DE Cyron Brown, CB Tito Paul, DE Marvin Washington Trade: LB Seth Joyner (from Green Bay)
	Draft (18) Free Agents (32) Trade (3)

COACHING STAFF

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach

Dan Reeves

Pro Career: Reeves is the NFL's winningest active coach, with his 172 victories ranking seventh on the league's all-time list. Reeves, who took over as Atlanta's eighth head coach on January 20, 1997, led the Falcons to a franchise-best 14-2 record in 1998 after finishing 7-9 in his first season. Reeves had been the head coach of the New York Giants from 1993-96. Prior to that, he compiled a 117-79-1 record as head coach of the Denver Broncos from 1981-1992, earning NFL coach of the year honors in 1982, 1988, and 1991. He led the Broncos to three Super Bowl berths, four AFC Championship Games, five AFC West titles, and eight winning seasons. In his first year in New York, he earned NFL Coach of the Year honors for a fourth time, taking the Giants from 6-10 to an 11-5 mark, including a wild-card playoff victory over the Minnesota Vikings. Overall, Reeves has accumulated 11 winning seasons as head coach, participated in 48 playoff games including today, his ninth Super Bowl as an NFL player, assistant coach, or head coach. Career record: 172-144-1.

Background: Prior to obtaining his first NFL head coaching job in 1981, Reeves had been a member of the Dallas Cowboys' coaching staff since 1970, spending a total of 16 years under Tom Landry as a player and coach. In 1977 he was named offensive coordinator of Landry's staff. Reeves began his pro career as a free agent running back for Dallas in 1965. Prior to that he was a quarterback at South Carolina from 1962-64, passing for 2,561 yards and 16 touchdowns. He totaled 3,376 yards during his career with the Gamecocks, leading to his induction into the school's hall of fame in 1978. Reeves later was inducted into the state of Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

Personal: Born January 19, 1944, Americus, Georgia. Dan and his wife, Pam, live in Atlanta, and have three children—Dana, Laura, and Lee.

ASSISTANT COACHES

Marvin Bass, assistant to head coach-pro personnel; born August 28, 1919, Norfolk, Virginia, lives in Suwanee, Georgia. Tackle William & Mary 1940-42. No pro playing experience. College coach: William & Mary 1944-48, 1950-51 (head coach), North Carolina 1949, 1953-55, South Carolina 1956-59, 1961-65, Georgia Tech 1960, Richmond 1963. Pro coach: Washington Redskins 1952, Montreal Beavers (Continental League) 1966-67, Montreal Alouettes (CFL) 1968, Buffalo Bills 1969-1971, Birmingham Americans (WFL) 1974-75, Denver Broncos 1982-1992. Joined Falcons in 1997.

Don Blackmon, linebackers; born March 14, 1958, Pompano Beach, Florida, lives in Suwanee, Georgia. Linebacker Tulsa 1977-1980. Pro linebacker New England Patriots 1981-87. Pro coach: New England Patriots 1988-1990, Cleveland Browns 1991-92, New York Giants 1993-96, joined Falcons in 1997.

Rich Brooks, assistant head coach-defensive coordinator; born August 10, 1941, Forest, California, lives in Duluth, Georgia. Tailback, defensive back, and quarterback Oregon State 1959-1962. No pro playing experience. College coach: Oregon State 1965-69, 1973, UCLA 1970, 1976, Oregon 1977-1994 (head coach). Pro coach: Los Angeles Rams 1971-72, San Francisco 49ers 1974-75, St. Louis Rams 1995-96 (head coach), joined Falcons in 1997.

Jack Burns, quarterbacks, born January 3, 1949, Tampa, Florida, lives in Suwanee, Georgia. Safety Florida, 1967-1970. No pro playing experience. College coach: Florida 1971-73, 1975, Louisville 1974, 1985-88, Texas 1976, Vanderbilt 1977-78, Auburn 1979-1980. Pro coach: Tampa Bay Bandits (USFL) 1983, Washington Redskins 1989-1991, Minnesota Vikings 1992-93, joined Falcons in 1997.

James Daniel, tight ends; born January 17, 1953, Wetumpka, Alabama, lives in Suwanee, Georgia. Offensive guard Alabama State 1970-73. No pro playing experience. College coach: Auburn 1981-1992. Pro coach: New York Giants 1993-96, joined Falcons in 1997.

Joe DeCamillis, special teams; born June 29, 1965, Arvada, Colorado, lives in Alpharetta, Georgia. No college or pro playing experience. College coach: Wyoming 1988. Pro coach: Denver Broncos 1989, Miami Dolphins 1990, New York Giants 1993-96, joined Falcons in 1997.

Tim Jorgensen, assistant strength and conditioning; born April 21, 1955, St. Louis, lives in Snellville, Georgia. Guard Southwest Missouri State 1974-76. No pro playing experience. College coach: Southwest Missouri State 1977-78, Alabama 1979, Louisiana State 1980-83. Pro coach: Philadelphia Eagles 1984-86, joined Falcons in 1987.

Bill Kollar, defensive line; born November 27, 1952, Warren, Ohio, lives in Duluth, Georgia. Defensive end Montana State 1971-74. Pro defensive end Cincinnati Bengals 1974-76, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 1977-1981. College coach: Illinois 1985-87, Purdue 1988-89. Pro coach: Tampa Bay Buccaneers 1984, joined Falcons in 1990.

Ron Meeks, secondary; born August 27, 1954, Jacksonville, Florida, lives in Suwanee, Georgia. Defensive back Arkansas State 1975-76. Pro defensive back Hamilton Tiger-Cats (CFL) 1977-79, Ottawa Rough Riders (CFL) 1979, Toronto Argonauts (CFL) 1980-81. College coach: Arkansas State 1984-85, Miami 1986-87, New Mexico State 1988, Fresno State 1989-1990. Pro coach: Dallas Cowboys 1991, Cincinnati Bengals 1992-96, joined Falcons in 1997.

Al Miller, strength and conditioning; born August 29, 1947, El Dorado, Arkansas, lives in Alpharetta, Georgia. Wide receiver Northeast Louisiana 1965-69. No pro playing experience. College coach: Northwestern State (La.) 1974-78, Mississippi State 1980, Northeast Louisiana 1981, Alabama 1982-84. Pro coach: Denver Broncos 1987-1992, New York Giants 1993-96, joined Falcons in 1997.

George Sefcik, offensive coordinator-running backs; born December 27, 1939, Cleveland, Ohio, lives in Suwanee, Georgia. Halfback Notre Dame 1959-1961. No pro playing experience. College coach: Notre Dame 1963-68, Kentucky 1969-1972. Pro coach: Baltimore Colts 1973-74, Cleveland Browns 1975-77, 1989-1990, Cincinnati Bengals 1978-1983, Green Bay Packers 1984-87, Kansas City Chiefs 1988, New York Giants 1991-96, joined Falcons in 1997.

Art Shell, offensive line; born November 26, 1946, Charleston, South Carolina, lives in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Offensive-defensive tackle Maryland State 1965-67. Pro offensive tackle Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders 1968-1982. Inducted into Pro Football Hall of Fame 1989. Pro coach: Los Angeles Raiders 1983-1994 (head coach 1989-1994), Kansas City Chiefs 1995-96, joined Falcons in 1997.

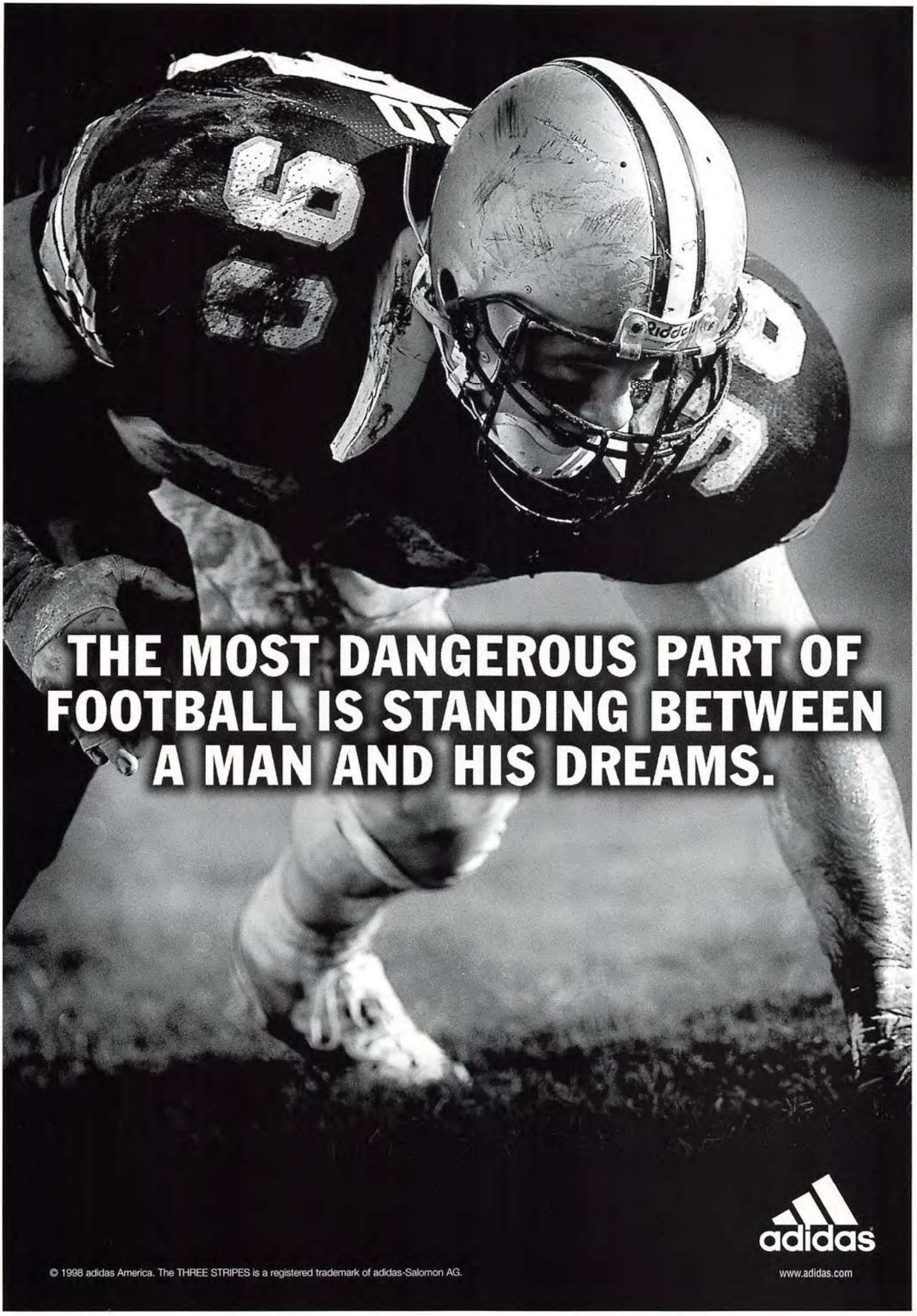
Warren (Rennie) Simmons, wide receivers; born February 25, 1942, Poughkeepsie, New York, lives in Gainesville, Georgia. Center San Diego State 1961-65. No pro playing experience. College coach: Cal State-Fullerton 1974-78, Cerritos (Calif.) J.C. 1978-1980, Vanderbilt 1995. Pro coach: Washington Redskins 1981-1993, Los Angeles Rams 1994, Houston Oilers 1996, joined Falcons in 1997.

Ed West, offensive quality control; born August 2, 1961, Leighton, Alabama, lives in Woodstock, Georgia. Tight end Auburn 1980-83. Pro tight end Green Bay Packers 1984-1994, Philadelphia Eagles 1995-96, Atlanta Falcons 1997. Pro coach: Joined Falcons in 1998.

Brian Xanders, defensive quality control; born April 10, 1971, East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, lives in Atlanta. Linebacker Florida State 1989-1992. No pro playing experience. Pro coach: Joined Falcons in 1997.

HOW THE FALCONS WERE BUILT

1987 • 3-12 **5th NFC West**	Free Agent: LB Jessie Tuggle
1992 • 6-10 **3rd NFC West**	Draft: T Bob Whitfield (1a), DE Chuck Smith (2)
1993 • 6-10 **3rd NFC West**	Free Agent: C Robbie Tobeck Trade: DE Lester Archambeau (from Green Bay)
1994 • 7-9 **3rd NFC West**	Draft: RB Jamal Anderson (7) Free Agent: WR Terance Mathis
1995 • 9-8 **2nd NFC West**	Draft: S Devin Bush (1), DT Travis Hall (6), DE John Burrough (7) Free Agent: K Morten Andersen, P Dan Stryzinski Trade: G Gene Williams (from Cleveland)
1996 • 3-13 **4th NFC West**	Draft: LB Craig Sauer (6) Free Agent: LB Cornelius Bennett
1997 • 7-9 **3rd NFC West**	Draft: CB Michael Booker (1), TE O.J. Santiago (3), LB Henri Crockett (4), G-C Calvin Collins (6), QB Tony Graziani (7a), S Chris Boyne (7b) Free Agent: CB Ronnie Bradford, CB Ray Buchanan, RB Gary Downs, DT Shane Dronett, RB Harold Green, LB Ruffin Hamilton, WR Todd Kinchen, TE Brian Kozlowski, C-G Adam Schreiber, TE Ed Smith, S William White Trade: QB Chris Chandler (from Houston)
1998 • 16-2 **NFC Champions**	Draft: LB Keith Brooking (1), G Bob Hallen (2), S Omar Brown (4a), WR Tim Dwight (4b), CB Elijah Williams (6), T Ephraim Salaam (7a), RB Ken Oxendine (7b) Free Agent: CB Darren Anderson, QB Steve DeBerg, DE Antonio Edwards, CB Randy Fuller, WR Ronnie Harris, TE Rodrick Monroe, T Jose Portilla, S Eugene Robinson, DE Shawn Swayda, LB Ben Talley, DT Esera Tuaolo, G-C Dave Widell Trade: WR Tony Martin (from San Diego)
	Draft (20) Free Agents (29) Trade (4)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BRONCOS ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
83	Armour, Justin	WR	6-4	210	1/1/73	4	Stanford
27	Atwater, Steve	S	6-3	220	10/28/66	10	Arkansas
79	Banks, Chris	G	6-1	300	4/4/73	1	Kansas
34	Braxton, Tyrone	S	5-11	190	12/17/64	12	North Dakota State
6	Brister, Bubby	QB	6-3	205	8/15/62	12	Northeast Louisiana
73	Brown, Cyron	DE	6-5	265	6/28/75	R	Western Illinois
26	Brown, Eric	S	6-0	210	3/20/75	R	Mississippi State
56	Burns, Keith	LB	6-2	245	5/16/72	5	Oklahoma State
59	Cadrez, Glenn	LB	6-3	249	1/2/70	7	Houston
89	Carswell, Dwayne	TE	6-3	260	1/18/72	4	Liberty
86	Chamberlain, Byron	TE	6-1	242	10/17/71	3	Wayne State
48	Coghill, George	S	6-0	210	3/30/70	2	Wake Forest
39	Crockett, Ray	CB	5-10	184	1/5/67	10	Baylor
30	Davis, Terrell	RB	5-11	210	10/28/72	4	Georgia
63	Diaz-Infante, David	G-C	6-3	296	3/31/64	3	San Jose State
1	Elam, Jason	K	5-11	200	3/8/70	6	Hawaii
7	Elway, John	QB	6-3	215	6/28/60	16	Stanford
21	Gordon, Darrien	CB	5-11	190	11/14/70	6	Stanford
85	Green, Willie	WR	6-4	191	4/2/66	9	Mississippi
14	Griese, Brian	QB	6-3	215	3/18/75	R	Michigan
29	Griffith, Howard	RB	6-0	232	11/17/67	6	Illinois
96	Hasselbach, Harald	DT	6-6	284	9/22/67	5	Washington
22	Hebron, Vaughn	RB	5-8	192	10/7/70	6	Virginia Tech
20	James, Tory	CB	6-1	195	5/18/73	3	Louisiana State
25	Johnson, Darrius	CB	5-9	185	9/17/72	3	Oklahoma
60	Jones, K.C.	C	6-1	275	3/28/74	2	Miami
77	Jones, Tony	T	6-5	291	5/24/66	11	Western Carolina
99	Joyner, Seth	LB	6-2	245	11/18/64	13	Texas-El Paso
78	Lepsis, Matt	T	6-4	290	1/13/74	2	Colorado
97	Lodish, Mike	DT	6-3	280	8/11/67	9	UCLA
31	Loville, Derek	RB	5-10	208	7/4/68	8	Oregon
37	Lynn, Anthony	RB	6-3	230	12/21/68	5	Texas Tech
87	McCaffrey, Ed	WR	6-5	215	8/17/68	8	Stanford
51	Mobley, John	LB	6-1	236	10/10/73	3	Kutztown
66	Nalen, Tom	C	6-2	286	5/13/71	5	Boston College
82	Nash, Marcus	WR	6-3	195	2/1/76	R	Tennessee
62	Neil, Dan	G	6-2	281	10/21/73	2	Texas
28	Paul, Tito	CB	6-0	195	5/24/72	4	Ohio State
93	Pryce, Trevor	DT	6-5	295	8/3/75	2	Clemson
53	Romanowski, Bill	LB	6-4	245	4/2/66	11	Boston College
16	Rouen, Tom	P	6-3	225	6/9/68	6	Colorado
69	Schlereth, Mark	G	6-3	287	1/25/66	10	Idaho
84	Sharpe, Shannon	TE	6-2	228	6/26/68	9	Savannah State
42	Smith, Detron	RB	5-9	230	2/25/74	3	Texas A&M
90	Smith, Neil	DE	6-4	269	4/10/66	11	Nebraska
80	Smith, Rod	WR	6-0	200	5/15/70	4	Missouri Southern
74	Swayne, Harry	T	6-5	293	2/2/65	12	Rutgers
98	Tanuvasa, Maa	DE	6-2	267	11/6/70	5	Hawaii
70	Teague, Trey	T	6-5	285	12/27/74	R	Tennessee
94	Traylor, Keith	DT	6-2	304	9/3/69	7	Central State (OK)
95	Washington, Marvin	DE	6-6	275	10/22/65	10	Idaho
54	Wayne, Nate	LB	6-0	230	1/12/75	R	Mississippi
91	Williams, Alfred	DE	6-6	263	11/6/68	8	Colorado

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE								
WR	–	80	Rod Smith	85	Willie Green			
LT	–	77	Tony Jones	74	Harry Swayne	70	Trey Teague	
LG	–	69	Mark Schlereth	79	Chris Banks			
C	–	66	Tom Nalen	60	K.C. Jones			
RG	–	62	Dan Neil	63	David Diaz-Infante			
RT	–	74	Harry Swayne	78	Matt Lepsis			
TE	–	84	Shannon Sharpe	89	Dwayne Carswell	86	Byron Chamberlain	
WR	–	87	Ed McCaffrey	82	Marcus Nash	83	Justin Armour	
QB	–	7	John Elway	6	Bubby Brister	14	Brian Griese	
RB	–	30	Terrell Davis	31	Derek Loville	22	Vaughn Hebron	
RB	–	29	Howard Griffith	42	Detron Smith	37	Anthony Lynn	
DEFENSE								
LE	–	90	Neil Smith	95	Marvin Washington	73	Cyron Brown	
LT	–	94	Keith Traylor	97	Mike Lodish			
RT	–	93	Trevor Pryce	96	Harald Hasselbach			
RE	–	98	Maa Tanuvasa	91	Alfred Williams			
LLB	–	51	John Mobley	54	Nate Wayne			
MLB	–	59	Glenn Cadrez	56	Keith Burns			
RLB	–	53	Bill Romanowski	99	Seth Joyner			
LCB	–	39	Ray Crockett	25	Darrius Johnson	28	Tito Paul	
RCB	–	23	Darrien Gordon	20	Tory James			
SS	–	34	Tyrone Braxton	26	Eric Brown			
FS	–	27	Steve Atwater	48	George Coghill			
SPECIALISTS								
P	–	16	Tom Rouen	1	Jason Elam			
K	–	1	Jason Elam	16	Tom Rouen			
KO	–	1	Jason Elam	16	Tom Rouen			
H	–	16	Tom Rouen	14	Brian Griese			
PR	–	23	Darrien Gordon	80	Rod Smith	48	George Coghill	
KR	–	22	Vaughn Hebron	31	Derek Loville	25	Darrius Johnson	
PC	–	59	Glenn Cadrez	63	David Diaz-Infante	78	Matt Lepsis	
KC	–	63	David Diaz-Infante	66	Tom Nalen	78	Matt Lepsis	

CLUB DIRECTORY

Mike Shanahan ..... Head Coach
Frank Bush ..... Assistant Coach
Barney Chavous ..... Assistant Coach
Rick Dennison ..... Assistant Coach
Ed Donatell ..... Assistant Coach
George Dyer ..... Assistant Coach
Alex Gibbs ..... Assistant Coach
Mike Heimerdinger ..... Assistant Coach
Gary Kubiak ..... Assistant Coach
Pat McPherson ..... Assistant Coach
Brian Pariani ..... Assistant Coach
Ricky Porter ..... Assistant Coach
Greg Robinson ..... Assistant Coach
Greg Saporta ..... Assistant Coach
Rick Smith ..... Assistant Coach
John Teerlinck ..... Assistant Coach
Bobby Turner ..... Assistant Coach
Rich Tuten ..... Assistant Coach

ADMINISTRATION

Pat Bowlen ..... Owner and Chief Executive Officer
Yolanda Saltus ..... Senior Executive to President and CEO
Bill Bowlen ..... Board Member
John Bowlen ..... Board Member
Bill Britton ..... Board Member
Tim Guard ..... Board Member
Jeff Harman ..... Board Member
Fred Hemmings ..... Board Member
John Jagger ..... Board Member
John Renke ..... General Manager
Kristi Nichols ..... Executive Assistant to the General Manager
Joe Ellis ..... Vice President of Business Operations
Lisa Williams .. Executive Assistant to Vice President of Business Operations
Jim Schafer ..... Assistant to the President
Veronica Ibarra ..... Administrative Assistant

FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

Neal Dahlen ..... Director of Player Personnel
Jack Elway ..... Director of Pro Scouting
Ted Sundquist ..... Director of College Scouting
Jerry Frei ..... College Scouting Consultant
Dave Blando ... Director of Salary Cap and Football Finance Administration
Bob Beers ..... College Scout
Scott DiStefano ..... College Scout
Jim Goodman ..... College Scout
Cornell Green ..... College Scout
Dan Rambo ..... College Scout
Dale Strahm ..... College Scout
Chris Trulove ..... Pro Personnel Assistant
Mike Bluem ..... College Scouting Assistant
Pam Hynes, Jill Fishman ..... Player Personnel Assistants

CLUB PERSONNEL

Allen Fears ..... Chief Financial Officer
Rick Nichols ..... Director of Ticket Operations/Business Development
Jim Saccomano ..... Senior Director of Media Relations
Gail Stuckey ..... Director of Stadium Operations
Bill Harpole ..... Director of Operations
Fred Fleming ..... Assistant to the General Manager/Community Relations
Billy Thompson ..... Director of Player Relations
Steve Antonopulos ..... Head Athletic Trainer
Doug West ..... Equipment Manager
Kent Erickson ..... Director of Video Operations
Michael Young ..... Director of Corporate Relations
Ross Kurcab ..... Turf Manager
Rick Schoenhals ..... Director of Information Systems
Patti Barban ..... Senior Ticket Assistant
Jo Bidwell ..... Controller
Ronnie Bill ..... Assistant Equipment Manager
Lee Carpenter ..... Community Relations Secretary
Chip Conway ..... Facilities Assistant
Wes Conway, Troy Smith ..... Assistant Turf Managers
Dave Daubers ..... Operator/Programmer for Information Systems
Molly Dougan ..... Loge Box Coordinator
Maeve Drake ..... Receptionist
Derrick Fitts, Jim Keller ..... Assistant Trainers
Patt Fox ..... Accounting Manager
Carol Gibbons ..... Ticket Assistant
Dixie Greer ..... Assistant Coaches Secretary/Video Department
Steve Harbula ..... Marketing Coordinator
Beverly J. Havens ..... Accounting
Dr. Richard Hawkins, Dr. Arthur Ziporin ..... Team Physicians
Kirt Horiuchi ..... Video Assistant
Gary Kalika ..... Network Manager
Paul Kirk, Richard Stewart ..... Media Relations Assistants
Sue Kissel ..... Manager/Broncos Store
Pamela Krotchko ..... Manager/Denver Broncos Charities Fund
Cindi Lowe ..... Secretary to Head Coach
Gary McCune ..... Assistant Video Director
Jim Reese ..... Senior Ticket Assistant
Brad St. Clair, Derek Thomas ..... Ticket Assistants
Steve Sewell ..... Community Relations Coordinator
Teresa Schroeder ..... Cheerleaders Director
Sheila Thomas ..... Human Resources Manager
Shelly Trujillo ..... Assistant Director, Cheerleaders
Chris Valenti ..... Equipment Assistant
Susan Vaughn, Meredith Zier, Rebecca Villanueva ..... Administrative Assistants
Britt Williams ..... Events Coordinator
Sherry Zoltay ..... Insurance Coordinator

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NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	No.	Name	Pos.
1	Jason Elam	K	63	David Diaz-Infante	G-C
6	Bubby Brister	QB	66	Tom Nalen	C
7	John Elway	QB	69	Mark Schlereth	G
14	Brian Griese	QB	70	Trey Teague	T
16	Tom Rouen	P	73	Cyron Brown	DE
20	Tory James	CB	74	Harry Swayne	T
21	Darrien Gordon	CB	77	Tony Jones	T
22	Vaughn Hebron	RB	78	Matt Lepsis	T
25	Darrius Johnson	CB	79	Chris Banks	G
26	Eric Brown	S	80	Rod Smith	WR
27	Steve Atwater	S	82	Marcus Nash	WR
28	Tito Paul	CB	83	Justin Armour	WR
29	Howard Griffith	RB	84	Shannon Sharpe	TE
30	Terrell Davis	RB	85	Willie Green	WR
31	Derek Loville	RB	86	Byron Chamberlain	TE
32	Tony Veland	S	87	Ed McCaffrey	WR
34	Tyrone Braxton	S	89	Dwayne Carswell	TE
37	Anthony Lynn	RB	90	Neil Smith	DE
39	Ray Crockett	CB	91	Alfred Williams	DE
42	Detron Smith	RB	93	Trevor Pryce	DT
51	John Mobley	LB	94	Keith Traylor	DT
53	Bill Romanowski	LB	95	Marvin Washington	DE
54	Nate Wayne	LB	96	Harald Hasselbach	DE
58	Steve Russ	LB	97	Mike Lodish	DT
59	Glenn Cadrez	LB	98	Maa Tanuvasa	DT
60	K.C. Jones	C	99	Seth Joyner	LB
62	Dan Neil	G			

AFC CHAMPIONS

DENVER BRONCOS

STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE			DEFENSE		
80	Rod Smith	WR	90	Neil Smith	LE
77	Tony Jones	LT	94	Keith Traylor	LT
69	Mark Schlereth	LG	93	Trevor Pryce	RT
66	Tom Nalen	C	98	Maa Tanuvasa	RE
62	Dan Neil	RG	51	John Mobley	LLB
74	Harry Swayne	RT	59	Glenn Cadrez	MLB
84	Shannon Sharpe	TE	53	Bill Romanowski	RLB
87	Ed McCaffrey	WR	39	Ray Crockett	LCB
7	John Elway	QB	21	Darrien Gordon	RCB
30	Terrell Davis	RB	26	Eric Brown	SS
29	Howard Griffith	RB	27	Steve Atwater	FS

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NFC CHAMPIONS

ATLANTA FALCONS

STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
80	Tony Martin . . . . . WR	92	Lester Archambeau . . . . . LE
70	Bob Whitfield . . . . . LT	98	Travis Hall . . . . . LT
68	Calvin Collins . . . . . LG	75	Shane Dronett . . . . . RT
61	Robbie Tobeck C	90	Chuck Smith . . . . . RE
69	Gene Williams . . . . . RG	97	Cornelius Bennett . . . . . LLB
74	Ephraim Salaam . . . . . RT	58	Jessie Tuggle . . . . . MLB
88	O.J. Santiago . . . . . TE	94	Henri Crockett . . . . . RLB
81	Terance Mathis . . . . . WR	34	Ray Buchanan . . . . . LCB
12	Chris Chandler . . . . . QB	23	Ronnie Bradford . . . . . RCB
32	Jamal Anderson . . . . . RB	35	William White . . . . . SS
85	Brian Kozlowski . . . . . FB	41	Eugene Robinson . . . . . FS

NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	No.	Name	Pos.
4	Dan Stryzinski	P	67	Adam Schreiber	C-G
5	Morten Andersen	K	68	Calvin Collins	G
12	Chris Chandler	QB	69	Gene Williams	G
13	Tony Graziani	QB	70	Bob Whitfield	T
17	Steve DeBerg	QB	74	Ephraim Salaam	T
20	Michael Booker	CB	75	Shane Dronett	DT
21	Elijah Williams	CB	76	Jose Portilla	T
23	Ronnie Bradford	CB	79	Dave Widell	G-C
25	Devin Bush	S	80	Tony Martin	WR
26	Darren Anderson	CB	81	Terance Mathis	WR
27	Omar Brown	S	82	Ronnie Harris	WR
28	Harold Green	RB	83	Tim Dwight	WR-KR
29	Randy Fuller	CB	84	Rodrick Monroe	TE
32	Jamal Anderson	RB	85	Brian Kozlowski	TE-FB
33	Ken Oxendine	RB	86	Ed Smith	TE
34	Ray Buchanan	CB	88	O.J. Santiago	TE
35	William White	S	89	Todd Kinchen	WR
41	Eugene Robinson	S	90	Chuck Smith	DE
45	Gary Downs	RB	91	John Burrough	DE
47	Chris Bayne	S	92	Lester Archambeau	DE
52	Craig Sauer	LB	93	Shawn Swayda	DT
54	Ruffin Hamilton	LB	94	Henri Crockett	LB
56	Keith Brooking	LB	95	Esera Tuaolo	DT
58	Jessie Tuggle	LB	96	Antonio Edwards	DE
59	Ben Talley	LB	97	Cornelius Bennett	LB
61	Robbie Tobeck	C	98	Travis Hall	DT
64	Bob Hallen	G			

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Marvin Bass . . . Assistant to Head Coach/Pro Personnel
Don Blackmon . . . Assistant Coach
Rich Brooks . . . Assistant Coach
Jack Burns . . . Assistant Coach
James Daniel . . . Assistant Coach
Joe DeCamillis . . . Assistant Coach
Tim Jorgensen . . . Assistant Coach
Bill Kollar . . . Assistant Coach
Ron Meeks . . . Assistant Coach
Al Miller . . . Assistant Coach
George Sefcik . . . Assistant Coach
Art Shell . . . Assistant Coach
Warren (Rennie) Simmons . . . Assistant Coach
Ed West . . . Assistant Coach
Brian Xanders . . . Assistant Coach

ADMINISTRATION
Taylor Smith . . . President
Jim Hay . . . Executive Vice President of Administration
Harold Richardson . . . General Manager
Ron Hill . . . Vice President of Football Operations

FINANCE
Kevin Anthony . . . Vice President/Chief Financial Officer
Wallace Norman . . . Controller
John Knox . . . Administrative Assistant
Carolyn Cathey, Greg Beadles . . . Accounting Assistants
Hamilton Childree . . . Tax Advisor

MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS
Charlie Taylor . . . Director
Frank Kleha . . . Assistant Director
LuAnn Stanaland . . . Secretary

MARKETING/SALES
Rob Jackson . . . Vice President
Todd Marble, Jan Zeller . . . Assistants
Spencer Treadwell . . . Special Events

TICKET OPERATIONS
Jack Ragsdale . . . Director
Michael Jennings . . . Assistant Director
Thomas Meunier . . . Vault Manager
Connie Bonner . . . Accounting Coordinator
Joe Laconi . . . Group Sales Manager
Carol Woody . . . Administrative Assistant

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
Carol Breeding . . . Director
Billy (White Shoes) Johnson . . . Player Programs Coordinator

COMPUTER OPERATIONS
Randy Kopp . . . Director of Information Systems

FRONT OFFICE STAFF
Tommy Nobis . . . Vice President, Corporate Development
Jerry Rhea . . . Special Assistant to the President
Brenda Johnston . . . Executive Assistant to the Head Coach
Karen Pieretti . . . Administrative Assistant to the President's Office
Janet Childree . . . Administration Secretary
Nancy Bruno . . . Chairman of the Board's Office
Roy Fulton . . . Administrative Assistant
Gail Warren . . . Receptionist

FACILITY OPERATIONS
Joe Choate . . . Superintendent of Building Maintenance
Jim Hewitt . . . Superintendent of Grounds Maintenance
Donna Wilson . . . Housekeeping

PLAYER PERSONNEL/SCOUTING
Chuck Connor . . . Director of Player Personnel/Pro
Reed Johnson . . . Director of Player Personnel/College
Ken Blair, Melvin Bratton, Dick Corrick, Boyd Dowler,
Elbert Dubenion, Bill Groman, Bob Harrison . . . Area Scouts
Mike Hagen . . . National Scout
Les Snead . . . Assistant Pro Scout
Kim Mauldin . . . Administrative Assistant/Football Operations
LaDonna Jones . . . Administrative Assistant/College Scouting

MEDICAL STAFF
Ron Medlin . . . Head Trainer
Matt Smith, Harold King . . . Assistant Trainers
Andrew Bishop, Randy Cronic, Charles Harrison . . . Team Doctors

VIDEO STAFF
Tom Atcheson . . . Video Director
Mike Crews . . . Assistant Video Director

EQUIPMENT STAFF
Brian Boigner . . . Manager
Horace Daniel . . . Senior Director/Gameday Coordinator
Jimmy Hay, Mike Myrick . . . Assistants

FALCONS ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
5	Andersen, Morten	K	6-2	225	8/19/60	17	Michigan State
26	Anderson, Darren	CB	5-11	189	1/11/69	6	Toledo
32	Anderson, Jamal	RB	5-11	234	9/30/72	5	Utah
92	Archambeau, Lester	DE	6-5	275	6/27/67	9	Stanford
47	Bayne, Chris	S	6-1	205	3/22/75	2	Fresno State
97	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	240	8/25/65	12	Alabama
20	Booker, Michael	CB	6-2	203	4/27/75	2	Nebraska
23	Bradford, Ronnie	CB	5-10	188	10/1/70	6	Colorado
56	Brooking, Keith	LB	6-2	244	10/30/75	R	Georgia Tech
27	Brown, Omar	S	5-10	200	3/28/75	R	North Carolina
34	Buchanan, Ray	CB	5-9	195	9/29/71	6	Louisville
91	Burrough, John	DE	6-5	275	5/17/72	4	Wyoming
25	Bush, Devin	S	5-11	210	7/3/73	4	Florida State
12	Chandler, Chris	QB	6-4	225	10/12/65	11	Washington
68	Collins, Calvin	G	6-2	307	1/5/74	2	Texas A&M
94	Crockett, Henri	LB	6-2	251	10/28/74	2	Florida State
17	DeBerg, Steve	QB	6-3	230	1/19/54	18	San Jose State
45	Downs, Gary	RB	6-1	212	6/6/72	5	North Carolina State
75	Dronett, Shane	DT	6-6	295	1/12/71	7	Texas
83	Dwight, Tim	WR-KR	5-8	184	7/13/75	R	Iowa
96	Edwards, Antonio	DE	6-3	271	3/10/70	6	Valdosta State
29	Fuller, Randy	CB	5-10	175	6/2/70	5	Tennessee State
13	Graziani, Tony	QB	6-2	210	12/23/73	2	Oregon
28	Green, Harold	RB	6-2	222	1/29/68	9	South Carolina
98	Hall, Travis	DT	6-5	300	8/3/72	4	Brigham Young
64	Hallen, Bob	G	6-4	292	3/9/75	R	Kent State
54	Hamilton, Ruffin	LB	6-1	238	3/2/71	3	Tulane
82	Harris, Ronnie	WR	5-11	179	6/4/70	5	Oregon
89	Kinchen, Todd	WR	5-11	187	1/7/69	7	Louisiana State
85	Kozlowski, Brian	TE-FB	6-3	255	10/4/70	5	Connecticut
80	Martin, Tony	WR	6-0	181	9/5/65	10	Mesa (CO)
81	Mathis, Terance	WR	5-10	185	6/7/67	9	New Mexico
84	Monroe, Rodrick	TE	6-4	244	7/30/75	R	Cincinnati
33	Oxendine, Ken	RB	6-0	228	10/4/75	R	Virginia Tech
76	Portilla, Jose	T	6-6	320	9/11/72	R	Arizona
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-1	197	5/28/63	14	Colgate
74	Salaam, Ephraim	T	6-7	290	6/19/76	R	San Diego State
88	Santiago, O.J.	TE	6-7	267	4/4/74	2	Kent State
52	Sauer, Craig	LB	6-1	240	12/13/72	3	Minnesota
67	Schreiber, Adam	C-G	6-4	298	2/20/62	15	Texas
90	Smith, Chuck	DE	6-2	265	12/21/69	7	Tennessee
86	Smith, Ed	TE	6-4	253	6/5/69	2	No College
4	Stryzinski, Dan	P	6-2	200	5/15/65	9	Indiana
93	Swayda, Shawn	DE	6-5	290	9/4/74	1	Arizona State
59	Talley, Ben	LB	6-3	248	7/14/72	3	Tennessee
61	Tobeck, Robbie	C	6-4	300	3/6/70	5	Washington State
95	Tuaolo, Esera	DT	6-2	281	7/11/68	8	Oregon State
58	Tuggle, Jessie	LB	5-11	230	4/4/65	12	Valdosta State
35	White, William	S	5-10	205	2/19/66	11	Ohio State
70	Whitfield, Bob	T	6-5	310	10/18/71	7	Stanford
79	Widell, Dave	G-C	6-7	316	5/14/65	11	Boston College
21	Williams, Elijah	CB	5-10	181	8/20/75	R	Florida
69	Williams, Gene	G	6-2	315	10/14/68	8	Iowa State

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE							
WR	–	80	Tony Martin	83	Tim Dwight		
LT	–	70	Bob Whitfield	76	Jose Portilla		
LG	–	68	Calvin Collins	64	Bob Hallen		
C	–	61	Robbie Tobeck	79	Dave Widell		
RG	–	69	Gene Williams	67	Adam Schreiber		
RT	–	74	Ephraim Salaam	76	Jose Portilla		
TE	–	88	O.J. Santiago	86	Ed Smith	84	Rodrick Monroe
WR	–	81	Terance Mathis	89	Todd Kinchen	82	Ronnie Harris
QB	–	12	Chris Chandler	17	Steve DeBerg	13	Tony Graziani
RB	–	32	Jamal Anderson	28	Harold Green	33	Ken Oxendine
FB	–	85	Brian Kozlowski	45	Gary Downs		
DEFENSE							
LE	–	92	Lester Archambeau	91	John Burrough		
LT	–	98	Travis Hall	95	Esera Tuaolo		
RT	–	75	Shane Dronett	93	Shawn Swayda		
RE	–	90	Chuck Smith	96	Antonio Edwards		
WLB	–	97	Cornelius Bennett	56	Keith Brooking		
MLB	–	58	Jessie Tuggle	54	Ruffin Hamilton		
SLB	–	94	Henri Crockett	52	Craig Sauer	59	Ben Talley
LCB	–	34	Ray Buchanan	29	Randy Fuller	26	Darren Anderson
RCB	–	23	Ronnie Bradford	20	Michael Booker	21	Elijah Williams
SS	–	35	William White	25	Devin Bush	47	Chris Bayne
FS	–	41	Eugene Robinson	27	Omar Brown		
SPECIALISTS							
P	–	4	Dan Stryzinski				
K	–	5	Morten Andersen				
KO	–	5	Morten Andersen				
H	–	4	Dan Stryzinski	89	Todd Kinchen		
PR	–	83	Tim Dwight	89	Todd Kinchen	82	Ronnie Harris
KR	–	83	Tim Dwight	21	Elijah Williams	82	Ronnie Harris
PC	–	67	Adam Schreiber	79	Dave Widell	91	John Burrough
KC	–	67	Adam Schreiber	79	Dave Widell	91	John Burrough

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BRONCOS

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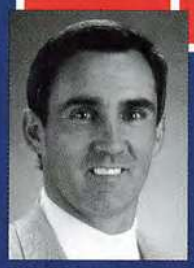
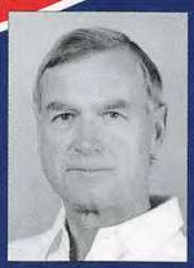
Pat Bowlen
President
Chairman of the Board



Mike Shanahan
Vice President/
Head Coach

John Beake
General Manager

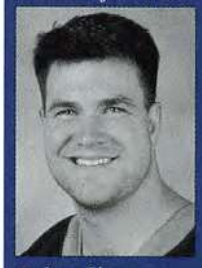


Neal Dahlen
Director of
Player Personnel

Jack Elway
Director of Pro Scouting

Ted Sundquist
Director of College Scouting

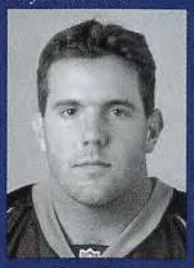
Dave Blando
Director of Salary Cap and
Football Finance Administration



1 Jason Elam
Kicker

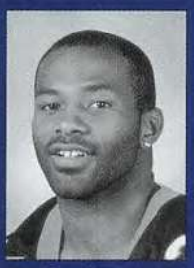
6 Bubby Brister
Quarterback

7 John Elway
Quarterback



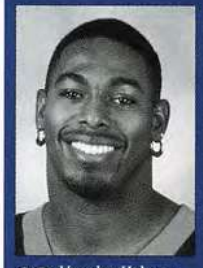
14 Brian Griese
Quarterback

16 Tom Rouen
Punter

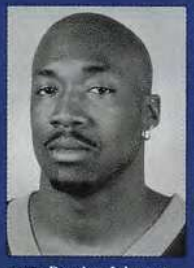


20 Tory James
Cornerback

21 Darrien Gordon
Cornerback



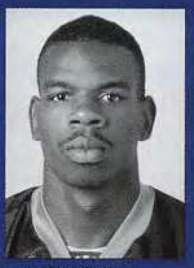
22 Vaughn Hebron
Running Back



25 Darrius Johnson
Cornerback

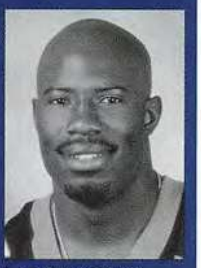
26 Eric Brown
Safety

27 Steve Atwater
Safety



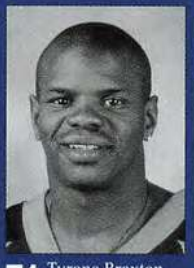
28 Tito Paul
Cornerback

29 Howard Griffith
Running Back

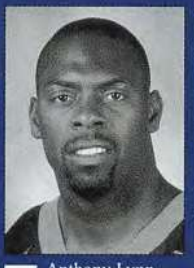


30 Terrell Davis
Running Back

31 Derek Loville
Running Back

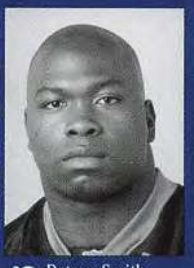


34 Tyrone Braxton
Safety

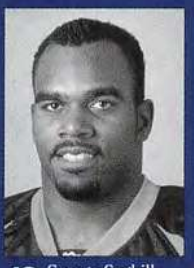


37 Anthony Lynn
Fullback

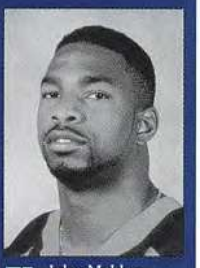
39 Ray Crockett
Cornerback



42 Detron Smith
Running Back

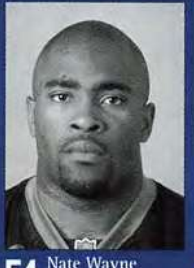


48 George Coghill
Safety



51 John Mobley
Linebacker

53 Bill Romanowski
Linebacker



54 Nate Wayne
Linebacker

56 Keith Burns
Linebacker

59 Glenn Cadrez
Linebacker

60 K.C. Jones
Center

62 Dan Neil
Guard

63 David Diaz-Infante
Guard/Center

AFC CHAMPIONS DENVER BRONCOS

PLAYERS & STAFF

DENVER BRONCOS

66 Tom Nalen *Center*

69 Mark Schlereth *Guard*

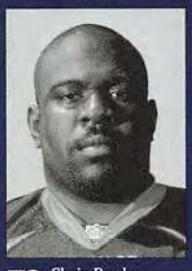
70 Trey Teague *Tackle*

73 Cyron Brown *Defensive End*

74 Harry Swayne *Tackle*

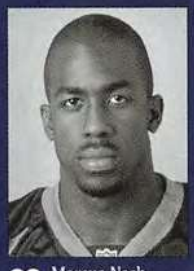
77 Tony Jones *Tackle*

78 Matt Lepsis *Tackle*



79 Chris Banks *Guard*

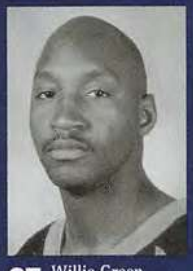
80 Rod Smith *Wide Receiver*



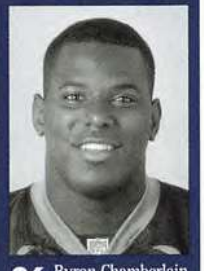
82 Marcus Nash *Wide Receiver*

83 Justin Armour *Wide Receiver*

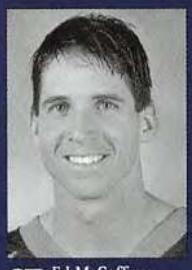
84 Shannon Sharpe *Tight End*



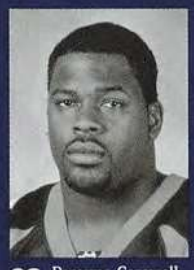
85 Willie Green *Wide Receiver*



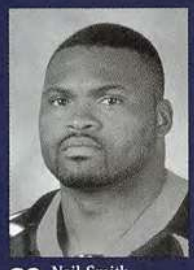
86 Byron Chamberlain *Tight End*



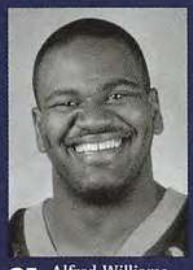
87 Ed McCaffrey *Wide Receiver*



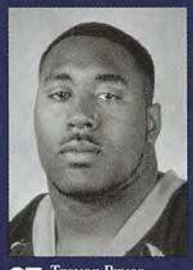
89 Dwayne Carswell *Wide Receiver*



90 Neil Smith *Defensive End*

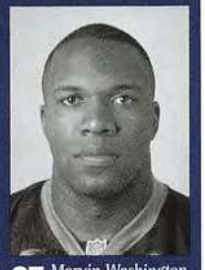


91 Alfred Williams *Defensive End*



93 Trevor Pryce *Defensive Tackle*

94 Keith Traylor *Defensive Tackle*



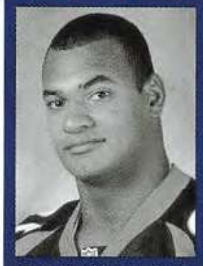
95 Marvin Washington *Defensive End*

Only available 4-door compact pickup. America's best-selling compact pickup for*

*Excluding non-Ford branded derivatives. Available on XLT with V-6 SuperCab. **Based on an average of consumer-reported problems at 3-months' ownership in a survey of Ford and competitive models.

DENVER BRONCOS

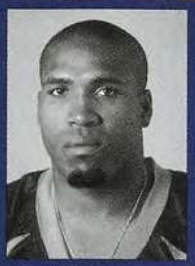
AFC CHAMPIONS



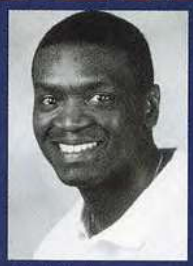
96 Harald Hasselbach
Defensive Tackle

97 Mike Lodish
Defensive Tackle

98 Maa Tanuvasa
Defensive Tackle



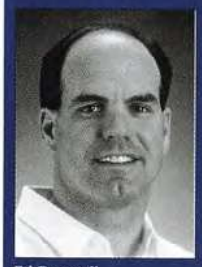
99 Seth Joyner
Linebacker



Frank Bush
Assistant Coach

Barney Chavous
Assistant Coach

Rick Dennison
Assistant Coach



Ed Donatell
Assistant Coach

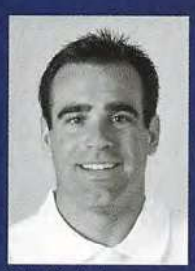
George Dyer
Assistant Coach

Alex Gibbs
Assistant Coach

Mike Heimerdinger
Assistant Coach

Gary Kubiak
Assistant Coach

Pat McPherson
Assistant Coach

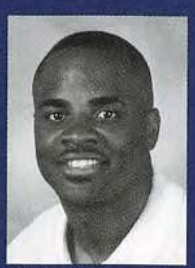


Brian Pariani
Assistant Coach

Ricky Porter
Assistant Coach

Greg Robinson
Assistant Coach

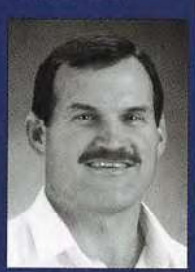
Greg Saporta
Assistant Coach



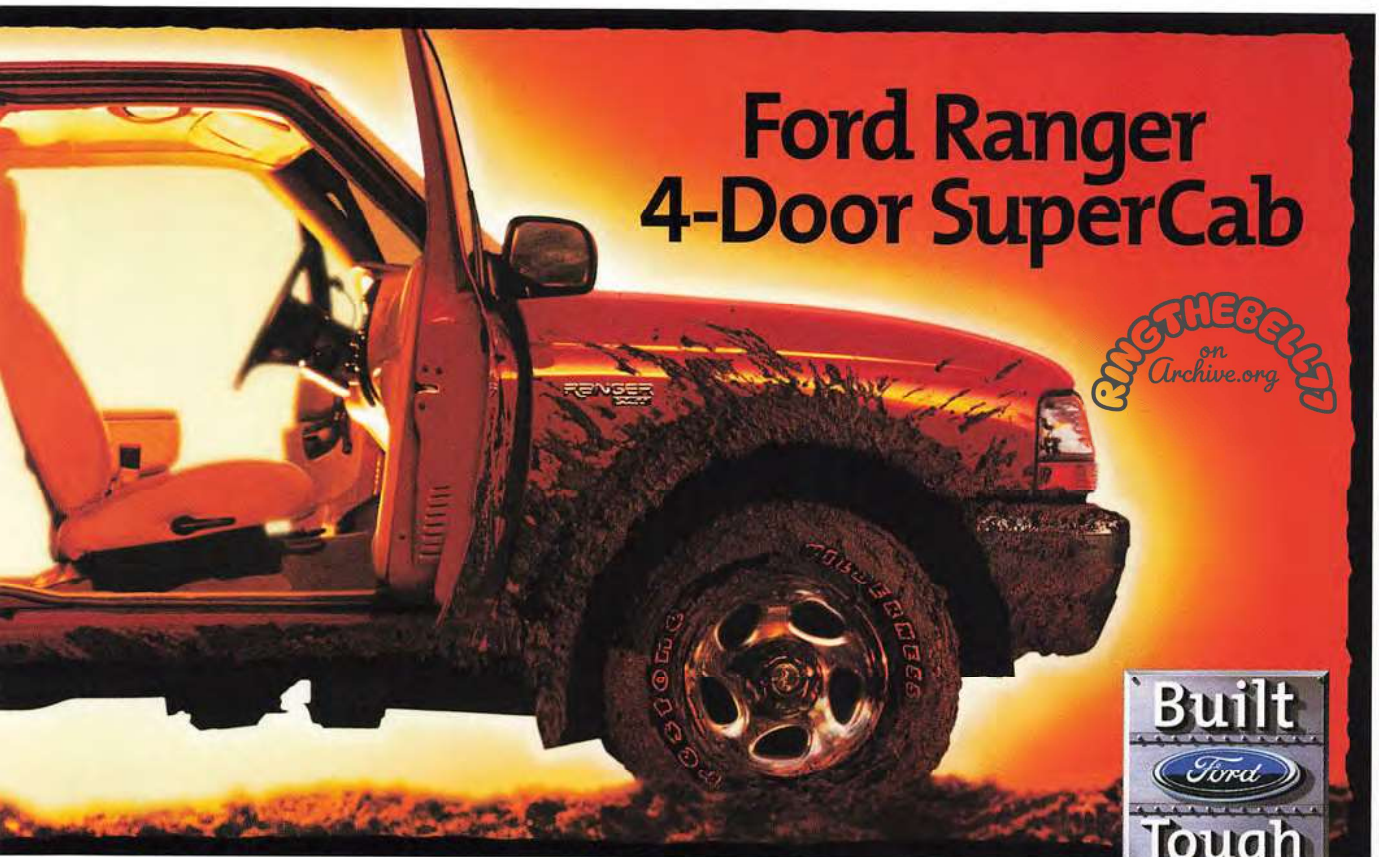
Rick Smith
Assistant Coach

John Teerlinck
Assistant Coach

Bobby Turner
Assistant Coach



Rich Tuten
Assistant Coach



*11 straight years. No other compact pickup has higher quality.***

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FALCONS

PLAYERS & STAFF

Taylor Smith
President

Dan Reeves
Exec. V.P. of Football Operations/Head Coach

Harold Richardson
General Manager

Ron Hill
Vice President of Football Operations

Tommy Nobis
Vice President of Corporate Development

4 Dan Stryzinski
Punter

5 Morten Andersen
Kicker

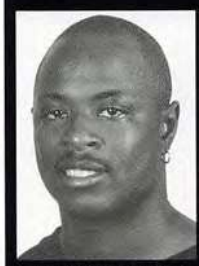
12 Chris Chandler
Quarterback

13 Tony Graziani
Quarterback

17 Steve DeBerg
Quarterback

20 Michael Booker
Cornerback

21 Elijah Williams
Cornerback

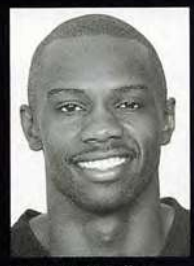

23 Ronnie Bradford
Cornerback

25 Devin Bush
Safety

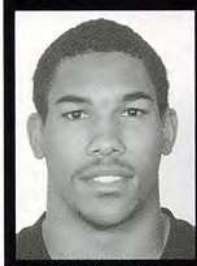
26 Darren Anderson
Cornerback

27 Omar Brown
Safety

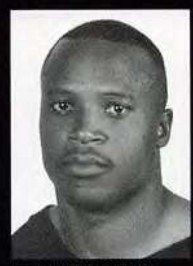
28 Harold Green
Running Back

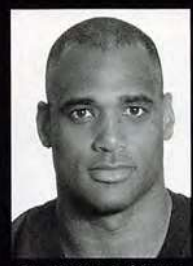

29 Randy Fuller
Cornerback

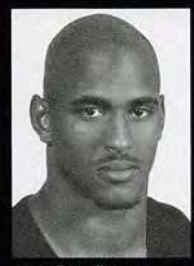
32 Jamal Anderson
Running Back


33 Ken Oxendine
Running Back

34 Ray Buchanan
Cornerback


35 William White
Safety


41 Eugene Robinson
Safety

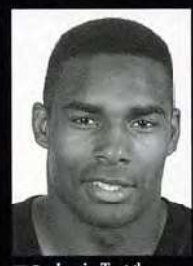

45 Gary Downs
Running Back

47 Chris Bayne
Safety

52 Craig Sauer
Linebacker

54 Ruffin Hamilton
Linebacker

56 Keith Brooking
Linebacker


58 Jessie Tuggle
Linebacker

59 Ben Talley
Linebacker

61 Robbie Tobeck
Center

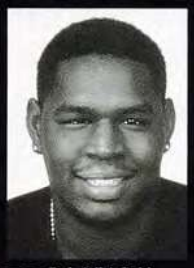
64 Bob Hallen
Guard

67 Adam Schreiber
Center/Guard

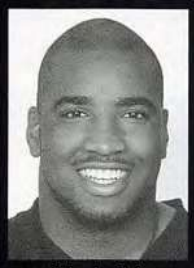
PLAYERS & STAFF

68 Calvin Collins
Guard

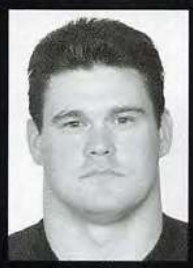
69 Gene Williams
Guard



70 Bob Whitfield
Tackle



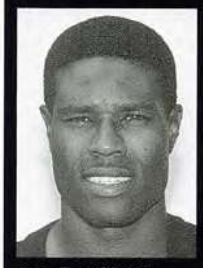
74 Ephraim Salaam
Tackle



75 Shane Dronett
Defemsive Tackle

76 Jose Portilla
Tackle

79 Dave Widell
Guard/Center

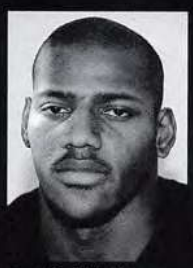


80 Tony Martin
Wide Receiver

81 Terance Mathis
Wide Receiver

82 Ronnie Harris
Wide Receiver

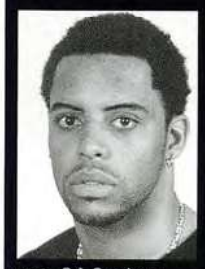
83 Tim Dwight
Wide Receiver/ Kick Returner



84 Rodrick Monroe
Tight End

85 Brian Kozlowski
Tight End/Fullback

86 Ed Smith
Tight End

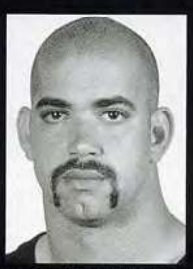


88 O.J. Santiago
Tight End

89 Todd Kinchen
Wide Receiver

90 Chuck Smith
Defensive End

91 John Burrough
Defensive End



92 Lester Archambeau
Defensive End

93 Shawn Swayda
Defensive Tackle

94 Henri Crockett
Linebacker

95 Esera Tuaolo
Defensive Tackle

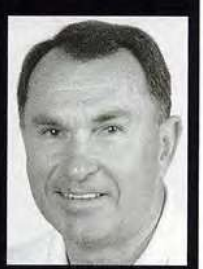
96 Antonio Edwards
Defensive End

97 Cornelius Bennett
Linebacker

98 Travis Hall
Defensive Tackle

Marvin Bass
Assistant to Head Coach/ Pro Personnel

Don Blackmon
Assistant Coach



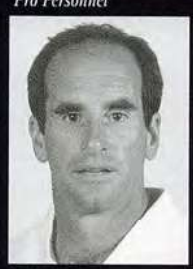
Rich Brooks
Assistant Coach

Jack Burns
Assistant Coach

James Daniel
Assistant Coach

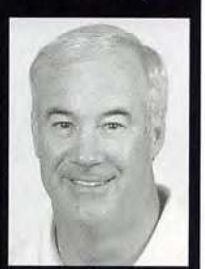
Joe DeCamillis
Assistant Coach

Tim Jorgensen
Assistant Coach

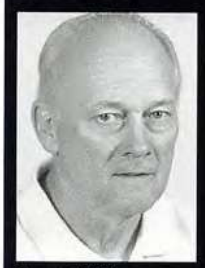


Bill Kollar
Assistant Coach

Ron Meeks
Assistant Coach



Al Miller
Assistant Coach

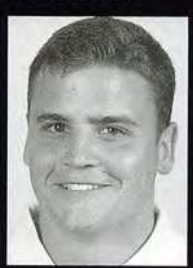


George Sefcik
Assistant Coach

Art Shell
Assistant Coach

Rennie Simmons
Assistant Coach

Ed West
Assistant Coach



Brian Xanders
Assistant Coach

ERIC LARS BAKKE/RICH CLARKSON & ASSOC.

Pat Bowlen

"I want us to be number one in everything," declared Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen in 1997. The Broncos met that goal last season with a victory over the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl XXXII. With the win, the Broncos were able to erase years of Super Bowl frustration from their previous four appearances.

Since Bowlen assumed ownership in 1984, the Broncos have been one of the most consistent teams in the AFC, winning seven AFC Western Division titles and five AFC championships, plus last year's Super Bowl victory. Under Bowlen the Broncos have had nine playoff appearances and just two losing seasons.

Bowlen has been instrumental in the Broncos' success. In 1995, he hired San Francisco offensive coordinator Mike Shanahan as the team's head coach. Bowlen also made key free-agent signings such as linebacker Bill Romanowski and wide receiver Ed McCaffrey. In addition he found Pro Bowl players in the late rounds of the draft such as tight end Shannon Sharpe (seventh in 1990), center Tom Nalen (seventh in 1994), and Super Bowl XXXII most valuable player Terrell Davis (sixth in 1995).

Bowlen is active in the Denver community. He is honorary chairman of the Special Olympics, and he was named Outstanding Celebrity in 1993.

Born in Praire du Chien, Wisconsin, Bowlen attended the University of Oklahoma, earning degrees in business (1965) and law (1968).

PERRY MCINTYRE

Taylor Smith

Taylor Smith is in his first full season of running the club following his father's death in October, 1997. The Falcons are making their first Super Bowl appearance today.

Rankin Smith's $8.5 million bid in 1965 for the NFL's new franchise in Atlanta was the highest bid in sports history for an expansion team, and Taylor was by his father's side at the Falcons' first training camp the following summer.

Smith lettered in three sports at Lovett High School, where he was a member of the school's state championship football team while playing both wide receiver and defensive back. Smith graduated from the University of Georgia in 1975.

Taylor Smith joined the club's front office in the late 1970s, working in various departments until earning the title of vice president in 1986. He became club president in 1990, the title he currently holds.

Smith's remarks to the Super Bowl XXXIV Committee were said to be a key reason Atlanta will host next season's game. Among his other roles, Smith is on the owners' board that oversees NFL Properties, the league's marketing, licensing, and publishing arm, and he is on the NFL's steering committee that helps players fulfill their college education.

In his spare time, Smith enjoys running and playing and watching golf. He is a frequent visitor to The Masters, and has participated in Atlanta's July 4th Peachtree Road Race.

Smith was born on May 3, 1953. He is an Atlanta native, and is the fourth of five children. Smith and his wife, Louise, have three children—Ryan, Sarah, and Rebecca.

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Time Out

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Personal Foul

Reset Play Clock-40 seconds

Reset Play Clock-25 seconds

Ball Illegally Touched, Kicked, or Batted

Delay of Game, Illegal Substitution, or Excess Time Out

No Time Out or Time In With Whistle

Offside or Encroaching

Holding

Penalty Refused, Incomplete Pass, Play Over, or Missed Field Goal

Facemask

Ineligible Receiver or Ineligible Member of Kicking Team Downfield

Illegal Motion at Snap

Illegal Shift

Crawling, Interlocking Interference, Pushing, or Helping Runner

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Tripping

Illegal Crackback

Illegal Cut or Blocking Below the Waist, Chop Blocks

Intentional Grounding of Pass

Touching a Forward Pass or Scrimmage Kick

Player Disqualified

Illegal Contact

False Start, Illegal Shift, Illegal Formation, or Kickoff or Safety Kick Out of Bounds

Illegal Substitution or Too Many Men on the Field

Illegal Use of Hands, Arms, or Body

Pass Juggled Inbounds, and Caught Out of Bounds

Illegal Forward Pass

Loss of Down

Invalid Fair Catch Signal

Uncatchable Forward Pass

Interference With Forward Pass or Fair Catch

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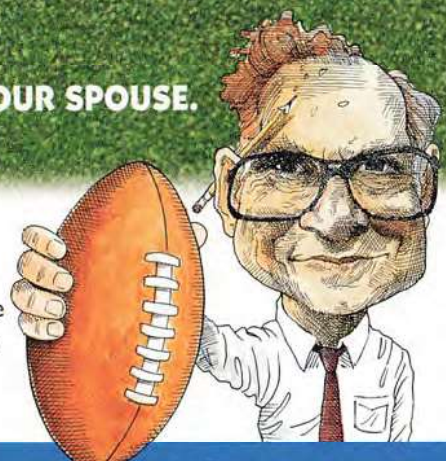

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SCORING

Most Points, Career
42 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games (7-td)
30 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games (5-td)
24 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-td)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (4-td)
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 4 games (4-td)

Most Points, Game
18 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (3-td)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-td); vs. San Diego, XXIX (3-td)
Ricky Watters, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX (3-td)
Terrell Davis, Denver vs. Green Bay, XXXII (3-td)

Most Touchdowns, Career
7 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games (7-p)
5 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games (5-r)
4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-r)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (2-r, 2-p)
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 4 games (4-r)

Most Touchdowns, Game
3 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (1-r, 2-p)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-p); vs. San Diego, XXIX (3-p)
Ricky Watters, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX (1-r, 2-p)
Terrell Davis, Denver vs. Green Bay, XXXII (3-r)

Most Field Goals, Career
5 Ray Wersching, San Francisco, 2 games (5 att)
4 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games (4 att)
Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets-Denver, 2 games (6 att)
Uwe von Schamann, Miami, 2 games (4 att)

Most Field Goals, Game
4 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Ray Wersching, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XVI
3 By seven players

Longest Field Goal
54 Steve Christie, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII
51 Jason Elam, Denver vs. Green Bay, XXXII
48 Jan Stenerud, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV
Rich Karlis, Denver vs. N.Y. Giants, XXI

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Career
101 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
70 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games
64 John Riggins, Washington, 2 games

Most Attempts, Game
38 John Riggins, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
34 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
33 Larry Csonka, Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Yards Gained, Career
354 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
297 Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games
289 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
204 Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
191 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
166 John Riggins, Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Longest Run From Scrimmage
74 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII (TD)
58 Tom Matte, Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, III
Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Career
5 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games
4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 4 games

Most Touchdowns, Game
3 Terrell Davis, Denver vs. Green Bay, XXXII

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Career
145 Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 4 games
123 John Elway, Denver, 4 games
122 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games

Most Passes Attempted, Game
58 Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
50 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII

Most Passes Completed, Career
83 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
81 Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 4 games

Most Passes Completed, Game
31 Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII
29 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX

Most Yards Gained, Career
1,142 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
932 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
357 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
340 Doug Williams, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Pass Completion
81 Brett Favre (to Freeman), Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI
80 Jim Plunkett (to King), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV
Doug Williams (to Sanders), Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Most Touchdown Passes, Career
11 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
9 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Touchdown Passes, Game
6 Steve Young, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX
5 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV

Most Attempts Without Interception, Game
36 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
Steve Young, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX

Most Passes Had Intercepted, Career
7 Craig Morton, Dallas-Denver, 2 games
Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 4 games
John Elway, Denver, 4 games

Most Passes Had Intercepted, Game
4 Craig Morton, Denver vs. Dallas, XII
Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
Drew Bledsoe, New England vs. Green Bay, XXXI

RECEPTIONS

Most Receptions, Career
28 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games
27 Andre Reed, Buffalo, 4 games

Most Receptions, Game
11 Dan Ross, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
10 Tony Nathan, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX
Andre Hastings, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XXX

Most Yards Gained, Career
512 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games
364 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
215 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
193 Ricky Sanders, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Reception
81 Antonio Freeman (from Favre), Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI (TD)
80 Kenny King (from Plunkett), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV (TD)
Ricky Sanders (from Williams), Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Career
7 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games
3 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games
Antonio Freeman, Green Bay, 2 games

Most Touchdowns, Game
3 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV; vs. San Diego, XXIX
2 By 10 players

INTERCEPTIONS BY

Most Interceptions By, Career
3 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
Rod Martin, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 2 games
Larry Brown, Dallas, 3 games

Most Interceptions By, Game
3 Rod Martin, Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV
2 By seven players

Most Yards Gained, Career
77 Larry Brown, Dallas, 3 games
75 Willie Brown, Oakland, 2 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
77 Larry Brown, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, XXX
75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI

Longest Return
75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI (TD)
60 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Game
1 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
Jack Squirek, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Reggie Phillips, Chicago vs. New England, XX

PUNTING

Most Punts, Career
17 Mike Eischeid, Oakland-Minnesota, 3 games
15 Larry Seiple, Miami, 3 games
Mike Horan, Denver, 3 games

Most Punts, Game
9 Ron Widby, Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
8 Tom Tupa, New England vs. Green Bay, XXXI

Longest Punt
63 Lee Johnson, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XXIII
62 Rich Camarillo, New England vs. Chicago, XX

Highest Average, Punting, Career (10 punts)
46.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City, 2 games (11-511)
41.9 Ray Guy, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games (14-587)

Highest Average, Punting, Game (4 punts)
48.8 Bryan Wagner, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX (4-195)
48.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV (4-194)
46.3 Jim Miller, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XVI (4-185)

PUNT RETURNS

Most Punt Returns, Career
6 By seven players

Most Punt Returns, Game
6 Mike Nelms, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
Desmond Howard, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI
5 Willie Wood, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Dana McLemore, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Most Fair Catches, Game
3 Ron Gardin, Baltimore vs. Dallas, V
Golden Richards, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, IX
Greg Pruitt, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Al Edwards, Buffalo vs. N.Y. Giants, XXV
David Meggett, N.Y. Giants vs. Buffalo, XXV

Most Yards Gained, Career
94 John Taylor, San Francisco, 3 games
90 Desmond Howard, Green Bay, 1 game

Most Yards Gained, Game
90 Desmond Howard, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI
56 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII

Longest Return
45 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
34 Darrell Green, Washington vs. L.A. Raiders, XVIII
Desmond Howard, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI

Highest Average, Career (4 returns)
15.7 John Taylor, San Francisco, 3 games (6-94)
15.0 Desmond Howard, Green Bay, 1 game (6-90)

Highest Average, Game (3 returns)
18.7 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII (3-56)
15.0 Desmond Howard, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI (6-90)

KICKOFF RETURNS

Most Kickoff Returns, Career
10 Ken Bell, Denver, 3 games
8 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games
Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games
Andre Coleman, San Diego, 1 game

Most Kickoff Returns, Game
8 Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX
7 Stephen Starring, New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Yards Gained, Career
283 Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games
244 Andre Coleman, San Diego, 1 game

Most Yards Gained, Game
244 Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX
190 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII

Longest Return
99 Desmond Howard, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI (TD)
98 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)
Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX (TD)

Highest Average, Career (4 returns)
38.5 Desmond Howard, Green Bay, 1 game (4-154)
35.4 Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games (8-283)

Highest Average, Game (3 returns)
47.5 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII (4-190)
38.5 Desmond Howard, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI (4-154)

SACKS

Most Sacks, Career
4.5 Charles Haley, San Francisco-Dallas, 5 games
3 Danny Stubbs, San Francisco, 2 games
Leonard Marshall, N.Y. Giants, 2 games
Jeff Wright, Buffalo, 4 games
Reggie White, Green Bay, 1 game

Most Sacks, Game
3 Reggie White, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI
2 By 11 players

SUPER BOWL

TEAM RECORDS

SCORING

Most Points, Game
55 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
52 Dallas vs. Buffalo, XXVII

Fewest Points, Game
3 Miami vs. Dallas, VI
6 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most Points, Both Teams, Game
75 San Francisco (49) vs. San Diego (26), XXIX
69 Dallas (52) vs. Buffalo (17), XXVII

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Game
21 Washington (7) vs. Miami (14), VII
22 Minnesota (6) vs. Pittsburgh (16), IX

Largest Margin of Victory, Game
45 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (55-10)
36 Chicago vs. New England, XX (46-10)

Most Points, Each Half
1st: 35 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
2nd: 30 New York Giants vs. Denver, XXI

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Each Half
1st: 2 Minnesota (0) vs. Pittsburgh (2), IX
2nd: 7 Miami (0) vs. Washington (7), VII
Denver (0) vs. Washington (7), XXII

FIRST DOWNS

Most First Downs, Game
31 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
28 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX

Fewest First Downs, Game
9 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
Miami vs. Washington, XVII
10 Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
Miami vs. Dallas, VI

Most First Downs, Both Teams, Game
50 San Francisco (31) vs. Miami (19), XIX
49 Buffalo (25) vs. Washington (24), XXVI

Fewest First Downs, Both Teams, Game
24 Dallas (10) vs. Baltimore (14), V
26 Minnesota (9) vs. Pittsburgh (17), IX

TOTAL YARDS

Most Yards Gained, Game
602 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
537 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Game
119 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
123 New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
929 Washington (602) vs. Denver (327), XXII
851 San Francisco (537) vs. Miami (314), XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
452 Minnesota (119) vs. Pittsburgh (333), IX
481 Washington (228) vs. Miami (253), VII
Denver (156) vs. Dallas (325), XII

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Game
57 Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
53 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Fewest Attempts, Game
9 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
11 New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Attempts, Both Teams, Game
81 Washington (52) vs. Miami (29), XVII
78 Pittsburgh (57) vs. Minnesota (21), IX
Oakland (52) vs. Minnesota (26), XI

Fewest Attempts, Both Teams, Game
49 Miami (9) vs. San Francisco (40), XIX
New England (13) vs. Green Bay (36), XXXI
51 San Diego (19) vs. San Francisco (32), XXIX

Most Yards Gained, Game
280 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
276 Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Fewest Yards Gained, Game
7 New England vs. Chicago, XX
17 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
377 Washington (280) vs. Denver (97), XXII
372 Washington (276) vs. Miami (96), XVII

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
158 New England (43) vs. Green Bay (115), XXXI
159 Dallas (56) vs. Pittsburgh (103), XXX
168 Buffalo (43) vs. Washington (125), XXVI

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Game
59 Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
55 San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX

Fewest Passes Attempted, Game
7 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
11 Miami vs. Washington, VII

Most Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game
93 San Diego (55) vs. San Francisco (38), XXIX
92 Buffalo (59) vs. Washington (33), XXVI

Fewest Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game
35 Miami (7) vs. Minnesota (28), VIII
39 Miami (11) vs. Washington (28), VII

Most Passes Completed, Game
31 Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII
29 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI

Fewest Passes Completed, Game
4 Miami vs. Washington, XVII
6 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game
53 Miami (29) vs. San Francisco (24), XIX
52 San Diego (27) vs. San Francisco (25), XXIX

Fewest Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game
19 Miami (4) vs. Washington (15), XVII
20 Pittsburgh (9) vs. Minnesota (11), IX

Most Yards Gained, Game
341 San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
326 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Game
35 Denver vs. Dallas, XII
63 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
615 San Francisco (326) vs. Miami (289), XIX
603 San Francisco (316) vs. San Diego (287), XXIX

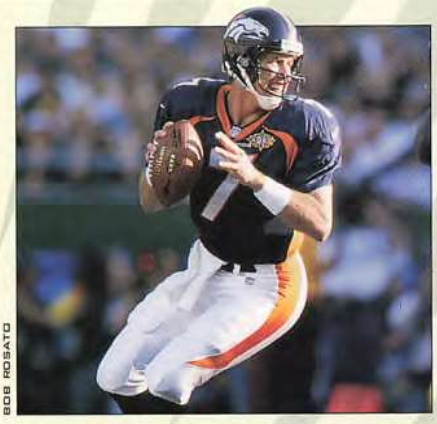
Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
156 Miami (69) vs. Washington (87), VII
186 Pittsburgh (84) vs. Minnesota (102), IX

Most Times Sacked, Game
7 Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X
New England vs. Chicago, XX
6 Kansas City vs. Green Bay, I
Washington vs. Los Angeles Raiders, XVIII
Denver vs. San Francisco, XXIV

CAREER PASSING LEADERS

(Minimum 40 attempts)

Player, Team	Games	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Long	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
Joe Montana, San Francisco	4	122	83	68.0	1142	9.36	11	9.0	44	0	0.0	127.8
Jim Plunkett, Oakland-L.A.Raiders	2	46	29	63.0	433	9.41	4	8.7	80t	0	0.0	122.8
Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh	4	84	49	58.3	932	11.10	9	10.7	75t	4	4.8	112.8
Troy Aikman, Dallas	3	80	56	70.0	689	8.61	5	6.3	45t	1	1.3	111.9
Bart Starr, Green Bay	2	47	29	61.7	452	9.62	3	6.4	62t	1	2.1	106.0
Brett Favre, Green Bay	2	69	39	56.5	502	7.28	5	7.2	81t	1	1.5	97.6
Roger Staubach, Dallas	4	98	61	62.2	734	7.49	8	8.2	45t	4	4.1	95.4
Len Dawson, Kansas City	2	44	28	63.6	353	8.02	2	4.5	46t	2	4.5	84.8
Bob Griese, Miami	3	41	26	63.4	295	7.20	1	2.4	28t	2	4.9	72.7
Dan Marino, Miami	1	50	29	58.0	318	6.36	1	2.0	30	2	4.0	66.9
Jim Kelly, Buffalo	4	145	81	56.0	856	5.90	2	1.4	40	7	4.8	57.7
Joe Theismann, Washington	2	58	31	53.4	386	6.66	2	3.4	60	4	6.9	57.1
Stan Humphries, San Diego	1	49	24	48.9	275	5.61	1	2.0	33	2	4.1	56.1
Neil O'Donnell, Pittsburgh	1	49	28	57.1	239	4.87	1	2.0	19	3	6.1	51.3
John Elway, Denver	4	123	58	47.2	792	6.44	2	1.6	56t	7	5.7	49.9
Drew Bledsoe, New England	1	48	25	52.1	253	5.27	2	4.2	44	4	8.3	46.6
Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota	3	89	46	51.7	489	5.49	1	1.1	30	6	6.7	43.7



BOB ROSATO

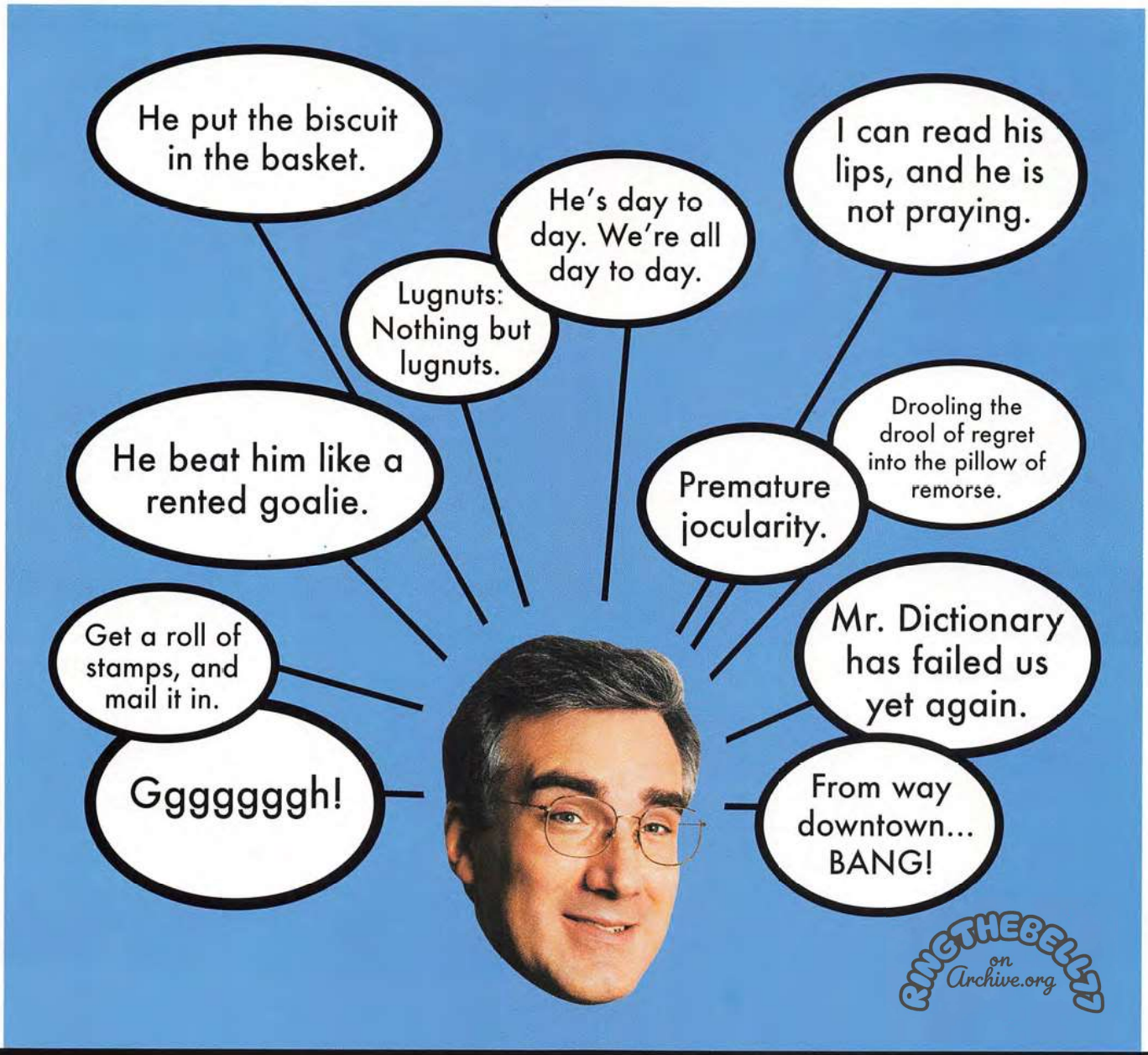
John Elway: 123 career pass attempts

CAREER RUSHING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	Yards	Attempts	Avg.	Long	TD
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh	4	354	101	3.5	25	4
Larry Csonka, Miami	3	297	57	5.2	49	2
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	3	289	70	4.1	31	5
John Riggins, Washington	2	230	64	3.6	43t	2
Timmy Smith, Washington	1	204	22	9.3	58t	2
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	4	204	52	3.9	31t	4
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	198	52	3.8	18	2
Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders	1	191	20	9.6	74t	2
Tony Dorsett, Dallas	2	162	31	5.2	29	1
Terrell Davis, Denver	1	157	30	5.2	27	3
Dorsey Levens, Green Bay	2	151	33	4.6	16	0
Mark van Eeghen, Oakland	2	148	36	4.1	11	0
Kenneth Davis, Buffalo	4	145	30	4.8	14	0
Rocky Bleier, Pittsburgh	4	144	44	3.3	18	0
Walt Garrison, Dallas	2	139	26	5.3	19	0

CAREER RECEIVING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	3	28	512	18.2	44t	7
Andre Reed, Buffalo	4	27	323	12.0	40	0
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	20	212	10.6	40	2
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	4	20	144	7.2	24	0
Jay Novacek, Dallas	3	17	148	8.7	25	2
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh	4	16	364	22.8	64t	3
Michael Irvin, Dallas	3	16	256	16.0	25	2
Chuck Foreman, Minnesota	3	15	139	9.3	26	0
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders	3	14	181	12.9	50	3
Antonio Freeman, Green Bay	2	12	231	19.3	81t	3
Don Beebe, Buffalo	3	12	171	14.2	43	2
Preston Pearson, Balt.-Pitt.-Dall.	5	12	105	8.8	14	0
Kenneth Davis, Buffalo	4	12	77	6.4	19	0
John Stallworth, Pittsburgh	4	11	268	24.4	75t	3
Dan Ross, Cincinnati	1	11	104	9.5	16	2


He put the biscuit in the basket.
He's day to day. We're all day to day.
I can read his lips, and he is not praying.
Lugnuts: Nothing but lugnuts.
He beat him like a rented goalie.
Drooling the drool of regret into the pillow of remorse.
Premature jocularity.
Get a roll of stamps, and mail it in.
Mr. Dictionary has failed us yet again.
Ggggggggh!
From way downtown... BANG!

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CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS

Broncos Bring Home First Super Bowl Ring

On January 25, 1998, the Denver Broncos claimed not only their first Super Bowl title, but they earned the franchise's initial Super Bowl ring, as well.

Super Bowl XXXII Most Valuable Player Terrell Davis rushed for 157 yards and 3 touchdowns as the Broncos defeated the Green Bay Packers 31-24.

Much thought and symbolism was put into the making of the Broncos' first Super Bowl ring. The center of the ring is an interlocking diamond display of the Broncos' logo. The horse's mane is made with Australian diamonds, while its neck contains Quadrillion diamonds. They sit on a wall of diamonds bordered by the words "WORLD CHAMPIONS".

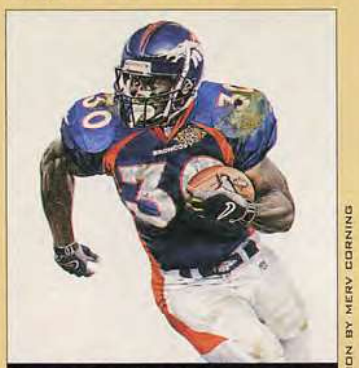
There are five diamonds on each side of the ring's center, representing 55, which was the combined point total of the two teams.

The ring's left side has five diamonds, one symbolizing each of Denver's five Super Bowl teams, along with the player's last name and uniform number.

The ring's right side displays the Lombardi Trophy and has the words "Qualcomm Stadium," the site of Super Bowl XXXII, enscripted.

Broncos' owner Pat Bowlen best explained the sentimental value the ring will carry for the players.

"The ring goes with you forever," Bowlen said. "It's your own personal trophy."



SUPER BOWL XXXII MVP:
Terrell Davis, RB, Denver Broncos

ILLUSTRATION BY MERV CORNING

XXXII

January 25, 1998
Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego, California
DENVER 31 GREEN BAY 24
MVP: Terrell Davis, RB, Denver

XXXI

January 26, 1997
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
GREEN BAY 35 NEW ENGLAND 21
MVP: Desmond Howard, KR, Green Bay

XXX

January 28, 1996
Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Arizona
DALLAS 27 PITTSBURGH 17
MVP: Larry Brown, CB, Dallas

XXIX

January 29, 1995
Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami, Florida
SAN FRANCISCO 49 SAN DIEGO 26
MVP: Steve Young, QB, San Francisco

XXVIII

January 30, 1994
Georgia Dome, Atlanta, Georgia
DALLAS 30 BUFFALO 13
MVP: Emmitt Smith, RB, Dallas

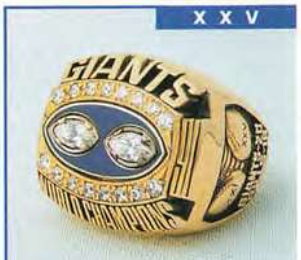
XXVII

January 31, 1993
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
DALLAS 52 BUFFALO 17
MVP: Troy Aikman, QB, Dallas

XXVI

January 26, 1992
Metrodome, Minneapolis
WASHINGTON 37 BUFFALO 24
MVP: Mark Rypien, QB, Washington

XXV



January 27, 1991
Tampa Stadium, Tampa, Florida
N.Y. GIANTS 20 BUFFALO 19
MVP: Ottis Anderson, RB, New York

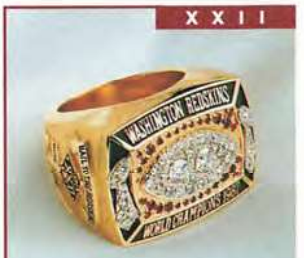
XXIV

January 28, 1990
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
SAN FRANCISCO 55 DENVER 10
MVP: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco

XXIII

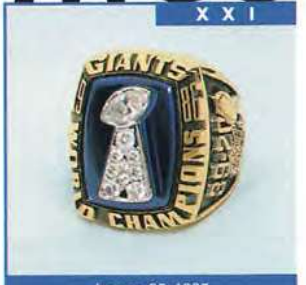
January 22, 1989
Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami, Florida
SAN FRANCISCO 20 CINCINNATI 16
MVP: Jerry Rice, WR, San Francisco

XXII



January 31, 1988
San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego
WASHINGTON 42 DENVER 10
MVP: Doug Williams, QB, Washington

XXI



January 25, 1987
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
N.Y. GIANTS 39 DENVER 20
MVP: Phil Simms, QB, New York

A pill that helps men with erectile dysfunction respond again.

Naturally, the response has been positive.

Now there's a simple new pill for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (a common medical problem also called impotence).

VIAGRA® (sildenafil citrate) is a prescription pill that may help you achieve erections the natural way—in response to sexual stimulation. Ask your doctor if VIAGRA is the right step for you.

VIAGRA should not be taken by men who use drugs known as nitrates (most often used to control angina) in any form, at any time. Nitrates can reduce blood pressure to unsafe levels if used with VIAGRA. Be sure to talk to your doctor about any medications you take.

In clinical trials, VIAGRA was well tolerated. Some men experienced side effects, including headache, facial flushing, and upset stomach. A small percentage of men experienced mild and temporary visual effects. (See product information for more details.)

For more information, call 1-888-4VIAGRA or visit www.viagra.com.

VIAGRA®
(sildenafil citrate) tablets
Let the dance begin.

Please see important product information for VIAGRA (25-mg, 50-mg, 100-mg) tablets on the following page.

Continued from page 2!

people have made special contributions herein–Bill Barron with "Behind the Scenes at the Super Bowl" (page 166), Brian Peterson with "Putting the 'FL' in NFL" (page 141), Matt Marini with a sidebar on the "other" games that have been played in Miami (page 108), Jim Gigliotti with a week-by-week review of the 1998 season (page 199), and Jim Buckley with a day-by-day look at the week before Super Bowl XXXIII (page 23).

Add to these assistant head coach-defense Chuck Garrity, Sr. (managing editor), assistant head coach-offense Brad Jansen (art director), game plan expert Kevin Terrell (photo editor), and a cast of behind-the-scenes characters too numerous to mention.

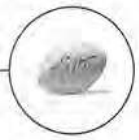
It all adds up to yet another victory, and a winning streak as long as the Super Bowl.

Since Super Bowl XXV, we always have enlisted four or five celebrity writers–TV personalities such as David Letterman, Jay Leno, and Andy Rooney; politicians such as Jimmy Carter, Eugene McCarthy, and Jack Kemp; newspaper columnists such as Pete Hammil, Al Martinez, and Will McDonough; novelists such as Richard Ford, Carl Hiaasen, Robert James Waller, and Tony Hillerman; playwrights and poets such as August Wilson, James Dickey, and Waddy Mitchell; essayists such as Scott Momaday, Andrei Codrescu, and Jerry Kramer.

This year novelist James Hall is back for a second time (he also wrote for the XXIX program) with a lively short story, "Mad Manny" (page 137), and columnist/humorist Dave Barry adds a collection of football memories (page 123). They are joined by two giants of sports journalism who died in 1998, Jim Murray (page 149) and Shirley Povich (page 163).

We are proud to present some big-game writing excerpts from Murray and Povich. They are missed.

Let the dance begin.



PATIENT SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT

VIAGRA®
(sildenafil citrate) tablets

This summary contains important information about VIAGRA®. It is not meant to take the place of your doctor's instructions. Read this information carefully before you start taking VIAGRA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand any of this information or if you want to know more about VIAGRA. This medicine can help many men when it is used as prescribed by their doctors. However, VIAGRA is not for everyone. It is intended for use only by men who have a condition called erectile dysfunction. **VIAGRA must never be used by men who are taking medicines that contain nitrates of any kind. This includes nitroglycerin.**

What Is VIAGRA?

VIAGRA is a pill used to treat erectile dysfunction (impotence) in men. It can help many men who have erectile dysfunction get and keep an erection when they become sexually excited (stimulated). You will not get an erection just by taking this medicine. VIAGRA helps a man with erectile dysfunction get an erection only when he is sexually excited.

How Sex Affects the Body

When a man is sexually excited, the penis rapidly fills with more blood than usual. The penis then expands and hardens. This is called an erection. After the man is done having sex, this extra blood flows out of the penis back into the body. The erection goes away. If an erection lasts for a long time (more than 6 hours), it can permanently damage your penis. You should call a doctor immediately if you ever have a prolonged erection that lasts more than four hours.

Some conditions and medicines interfere with this natural erection process. The penis cannot fill with enough blood. The man cannot have an erection. This is called erectile dysfunction if it becomes a frequent problem.

During sex, your heart works harder. Before you start any treatment for erectile dysfunction, ask your doctor if your heart is healthy enough to handle the extra strain of having sex.

How VIAGRA Works

In many men with erectile dysfunction, VIAGRA helps the body's natural erection process. When a man is sexually excited, the penis will fill with enough blood to cause an erection. After sex is over, the erection goes away.

VIAGRA Is Not for Everyone

VIAGRA is only for patients with erectile dysfunction. VIAGRA is not for newborns, children, or women. Do not let anyone else take your VIAGRA. VIAGRA must be used only under a doctor's supervision.

As noted above (*How Sex Affects the Body*), ask your doctor if your heart is healthy enough for sexual activity.

VIAGRA must never be used by men who are taking any medicines that contain nitrates. Nitrates are found in many prescription medicines that are used to treat angina (chest pain due to heart disease) such as:

- nitroglycerin (sprays, ointments, skin patches or pastes, and tablets that are swallowed or dissolved in the mouth)
- isosorbide mononitrate and isosorbide dinitrate (tablets that are swallowed, chewed, or dissolved in the mouth)

Nitrates are also found in illicit drugs such as amyl nitrate or nitrite ("poppers"). If you are not sure if any of your medicines contain nitrates, or if you do not understand what nitrates are, ask your doctor or pharmacist. If you take VIAGRA with any nitrate medicine or illicit drug containing nitrates, your blood pressure could suddenly drop to an unsafe level. You could get dizzy, faint, or even have a heart attack or stroke.

What VIAGRA Does Not Do

- VIAGRA does not cure erectile dysfunction. It is a treatment for erectile dysfunction.
- VIAGRA does not protect you or your partner from getting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV—the virus that causes AIDS.
- VIAGRA is not a hormone or an aphrodisiac.

What To Tell Your Doctor Before You Begin VIAGRA

Only your doctor can decide if VIAGRA is right for you. You will need to have a physical exam to diagnose your erectile dysfunction and to find out if you can take VIAGRA alone or with your other medicines.

Be sure to tell your doctor if you:

- have ever had any heart problems (angina, chest pain)
- have ever had any kidney problems
- have ever had any liver problems
- have ever had any blood problems, including sickle cell anemia or leukemia
- are allergic to sildenafil or any of the other ingredients of VIAGRA tablets
- have a deformed penis, Peyronie's disease, or ever had an erection that lasted more than 6 hours
- have stomach ulcers or any types of bleeding problems
- have a rare inherited eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa
- are taking any other medicines

VIAGRA and Other Medicines

Some medicines can change the way VIAGRA works. Tell your doctor about **any medicines** you are taking. Do not start taking any new medicines before checking with your doctor or pharmacist. This includes prescription and nonprescription medicines or remedies. Remember, VIAGRA should never be used with medicines that contain nitrates (see *VIAGRA is Not for Everyone*). VIAGRA should not be used with any other medical treatments that cause erections. These treatments include pills, medicines that are injected or inserted into the penis, implants or vacuum pumps.

Finding the Right Dose for You

You will learn how well VIAGRA works for you through your personal experience. If you do not get the results you expect, talk with your doctor. VIAGRA comes in different doses (25 mg, 50 mg and 100 mg). You and your doctor can determine the dose that works best for you.

- Do not take more VIAGRA than your doctor prescribes.
- If you think you need a larger dose of VIAGRA, check with your doctor.
- VIAGRA should not be taken more than once a day.

If you are older than age 65, or have serious liver or kidney problems, your doctor may start you at the lowest dose (25 mg) of VIAGRA.

How To Take VIAGRA

Take VIAGRA about one hour before you plan to have sex. Beginning in about 30 minutes and for up to 4 hours, VIAGRA can help you get an erection if you are sexually excited. If you take VIAGRA after a high-fat meal (such as a cheeseburger and french fries), the medicine may take a little longer to start working. VIAGRA can help you get an erection when you are sexually excited. You will not get an erection just by taking the pill.

Possible Side Effects

Like all medicines, VIAGRA can cause some side effects. These effects are usually mild and do not last long. Some of these side effects are more likely to occur with higher doses. The most common side effects of VIAGRA are headache, flushing of the face, and upset stomach.

Less common side effects that may occur are temporary changes in color vision (such as trouble telling the difference between blue and green objects or having a blue color tinge to them), eyes being more sensitive to light, or blurred vision. In extremely rare instances, men may have an erection that lasts many hours. You should call a doctor immediately if you ever have an erection that lasts more than four hours (see *How Sex Affects the Body*). VIAGRA may cause other side effects besides those listed on this sheet. If you want more information or develop any side effects or symptoms you are concerned about, call your doctor.

Accidental Overdose

In case of accidental overdose, call your doctor right away.

Storing VIAGRA

Keep VIAGRA out of the reach of children. Keep VIAGRA in its original container. Store at room temperature (59°-86°F or 15°-30°C).

For More Information on VIAGRA

VIAGRA is a prescription medicine used to treat erectile dysfunction. Only your doctor can decide if it is right for you. This sheet is only a summary. If you have any questions or want more information about VIAGRA, talk with your doctor or pharmacist or call 1-888-4VIAGRA.

HC302A98

VIAGRA®
(sildenafil citrate) tablets

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CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS

XX

January 26, 1986
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
CHICAGO 46 NEW ENGLAND 10
MVP: Richard Dent, DE, Chicago

XV

January 25, 1981
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
OAKLAND 27 PHILADELPHIA 10
MVP: Jim Plunkett, QB, Oakland

X

January 18, 1976
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
PITTSBURGH 21 DALLAS 17
MVP: Lynn Swann, WR, Pittsburgh

V

January 17, 1971
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
BALTIMORE 16 DALLAS 13
MVP: Chuck Howley, LB, Dallas

XIX

January 20, 1985
Stanford Stadium, Stanford, California
SAN FRANCISCO 38 MIAMI 16
MVP: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco

XIV

January 20, 1980
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
PITTSBURGH 31 LOS ANGELES 19
MVP: Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh

IX

January 12, 1975
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans, Louisiana
PITTSBURGH 16 MINNESOTA 6
MVP: Franco Harris, RB, Pittsburgh

IV

January 11, 1970
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans, Louisiana
KANSAS CITY 23 MINNESOTA 7
MVP: Len Dawson, QB, Kansas City

XVIII

January 22, 1984
Tampa Stadium, Tampa, Florida
L.A. RAIDERS 38 WASHINGTON 9
MVP: Marcus Allen, RB, Los Angeles

XIII

January 21, 1979
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
PITTSBURGH 35 DALLAS 31
MVP: Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh

VIII

January 13, 1974
Rice Stadium, Houston, Texas
MIAMI 24 MINNESOTA 7
MVP: Larry Csonka, RB, Miami

III

January 12, 1969
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
N.Y. JETS 16 BALTIMORE 7
MVP: Joe Namath, QB, New York

XVII

January 30, 1983
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
WASHINGTON 27 MIAMI 17
MVP: John Riggins, RB, Washington

XII

January 15, 1978
Superdome, New Orleans, Louisiana
DALLAS 27 DENVER 10
MVP: Randy White, DT, Dallas and Harvey Martin, DE, Dallas

VII

January 14, 1973
Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, California
MIAMI 14 WASHINGTON 7
MVP: Jake Scott, S, Miami

II

January 14, 1968
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
GREEN BAY 33 OAKLAND 14
MVP: Bart Starr, QB, Green Bay

XVI

January 24, 1982
Pontiac Silverdome, Pontiac, Michigan
SAN FRANCISCO 26 CINCINNATI 21
MVP: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco

XI

January 9, 1977
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
OAKLAND 32 MINNESOTA 14
MVP: Fred Biletnikoff, WR, Oakland

VI

January 16, 1972
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans, Louisiana
DALLAS 24 MIAMI 3
MVP: Roger Staubach, QB, Dallas

I

January 15, 1967
Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, California
GREEN BAY 35 KANSAS CITY 10
MVP: Bart Starr, QB, Green Bay

After warmly greeting her cat, Terrell Davis checked fan #114,602,593 off the NFL's "Thank You" master list. Terrell is just one of the 1,590 players who generously offered their free time to the NFL's effort to personally thank each of its 165 million fans for their dedication and commitment.

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SUPER BOWL III

SUPER BOWL XIII

SUPER BOWL XXIII

THREE of a KIND

THEIR NAMES ARE NAMATH, BRADSHAW, AND MONTANA, AND THE COMMON CITY OF THEIR DESTINY (BESIDES CANTON) IS MIAMI. TEN YEARS APART, IN THREE SUPER BOWLS, THEY MADE INDELIBLE MAGIC HAPPEN.

Label it Miami Thrice. Three of pro football's greatest quarterbacks—two Hall of Fame members and one whose bust is on order—had their finest hours in Super Bowls played a decade apart against the lush backdrop of south Florida.

Joe Namath, Terry Bradshaw, and Joe Montana. The symmetry is fascinating. Three quarterbacks, three men with western Pennsylvania ties, all won Super Bowls ending in III. Each man built his legend on the Miami stage. There is no denying the pattern, yet there is no logical explanation.

Namath, a native of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, led the New York Jets to an upset victory over Baltimore in Super Bowl III. A decade later, Bradshaw passed the Pittsburgh Steelers to a triumph over Dallas in Super Bowl XIII. Montana, of Monongahela, Pennsylvania, followed with his clutch performance for San Francisco in a victory over Cincinnati in Super Bowl XXIII. The first two games were played in the Orange Bowl, the last in Joe Robbie Stadium.

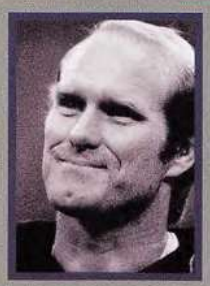
Don't ask the players why these things happen. They have no idea.

Namath had better statistical games than Super Bowl III. Bradshaw and Montana each won four Super Bowls. But it was in these three championship games, all played in Miami, that each quarterback's greatness came into focus. Each was the perfect marriage of man and moment.

As the game returns to south Florida this year for Super Bowl XXXIII, here is a look at three memorable chapters in football history.

BY RAY DIDINGER

JOE NAMATH



TERRY BRADSHAW

JOE MONTANA

FRED KAPLAN

NAMATH joe

IN REALITY, THE SUPER BOWL BEGAN WITH JOE NAMATH. NIT-PICKERS WILL POINT TO VINCE LOMBARDI, WHOSE GREEN BAY PACKERS WON THE FIRST TWO GAMES IN THE SERIES BETWEEN THE CHAMPIONS OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE AND THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE. TECHNICALLY, THAT IS CORRECT. BUT THE PACKERS WON THOSE TWO GAMES WITH SUCH REMARKABLE EASE, DEFEATING KANSAS CITY 35-10 AND OAKLAND 33-14, THAT THERE WAS

little drama. It was men versus boys, times two.

The Game did not become The Event until Namath led the New York Jets to a 16-7 upset of the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III. Broadway Joe, the roguish quarterback whose talent was exceeded only by his swagger, brought some welcome spice to the championship game. Millions flocked to their television sets to watch. Thirty years later, they still are watching.

"I don't know that a day goes by that I don't get reminded of that game," Namath says. "I never get tired of talking about it. It's a memory that never gets old."

The Jets, AFL champions with an 11-3 regular-season record, were 19-point underdogs to Baltimore. The Colts, coached by Don Shula, dominated the NFL with a 13-1 regular-season record and crushed Cleveland 34-0 in the NFL title game. The Colts had the top-ranked defense in the league and were considered one of the great teams of all-time.

As the odds reflected, most people felt the NFL was vastly superior to the AFL. Green Bay's easy victories over the Chiefs and Raiders only reinforced that belief. The NFL, with roots tracing back to 1920, was seen as the one true professional league. The AFL, born in 1960, was regarded as a pale imitation.

On the eve of the big game, former NFL quarterback Norm Van Brocklin was asked for his assessment of Namath. Van Brocklin, who would be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1971, was head coach of the Atlanta Falcons at the time, and he was a firm believer in NFL superiority.

"I'll tell you what I think about Joe Namath on Sunday night—after he has played

his first pro game," Van Brocklin said.

The Falcons' coach spoke not only for NFL loyalists but also for millions of people around the nation who did not believe in any player or team with an AFL pedigree.

To a man, the Jets were irritated by that lack of respect, but none took it as personally as Namath. On Thursday night before the game, Namath was honored by the Miami Touchdown Club as its player of the year. As he stepped to the microphone, a voice in the crowd—belonging to a Colts' fan, obviously—called out: "Hey, Namath, we're going to kick your ass."

Most of the audience laughed.

Namath didn't.

"I said, 'Whoa, wait a minute. You guys have been talking for two weeks now'—meaning the Colts' fans and the media—'and I'm tired of hearing it,'" Namath remembers. "I said, 'I've got news for you. We're gonna win the game. I guarantee it.'

"I didn't plan it. I never would have said it if that loudmouth hadn't popped off. I just shot back. We had a good team, but people were treating us like we didn't belong. I was fed up with it and I guess it just came out."

It was not until he sat down that Namath realized what he had done. He had *guaranteed* a victory. Surely, this would be the lead story in every newspaper and on every television sports show in the country. Those who regarded him as an arrogant loudmouth—and many people did—had more reason than ever to root against him.

TONY TOMSIC

ARTIST AT WORK: Namath coolly dissected the mighty Baltimore Colts by attacking the right side of their defense.

Namath's supporters—and there were plenty of them, as well—happily applauded his bravado. One thing was certain: Come Sunday, they all would be watching.

When Namath returned to the hotel, he called cornerback Johnny Sample, the Jets' defensive captain, in his room.

"Joe told me, 'I said something tonight that's gonna be all over the news tomorrow,'" Sample says. "I asked him: 'What the heck did you say?' He told me he guaranteed we'd win the game. I said, 'Man, you *didn't* say that.' He said yeah, he did.

"The thing was, we all thought we'd win the game. We had studied film on the Colts and we were really confident. But a guarantee? Joe said, 'Well, we're gonna win, aren't we?' I said, 'Yeah, Joe, we're gonna win, but you shouldn't have said it.'"

Jets coach Weeb Ewbank knew nothing of Namath's comments until the next day when he awoke to find the "guarantee" bannered across the front page of the morning paper. He was absolutely furious. He had instructed his players to lavish praise on the Colts and, if possible, make them even more overconfident. Namath's outburst, he feared, jeopardized everything.

"I asked Joe what possessed him to do such a thing," Ewbank said. "I said, 'Don't you know Shula will use this to fire up his team?' Joe said, 'Coach, if they need press clippings to get ready, they're in trouble.'

"I could have shot him for saying it. But Joe always had a way of delivering. He didn't mind pressure. It seemed to make him play better. I figured, if he said it, he would just have to back it up."

Playing before a capacity crowd at the Orange Bowl, with millions more watching on television, Namath coolly dissected the mighty Colts. He exploited the right side of Baltimore's defense, where age had slowed end Ordell Braase (36), linebacker Don Shinnick (33), and cornerback Lenny Lyles (32).

With his quick release, Namath beat the Colts' blitz with quick passes to split end George Sauer (8 receptions, 133 yards). The brash 25-year-old quarterback proved to be every bit as good as advertised—and much better than the Colts bargained for.

"We studied the film [of Namath], and we knew he could throw the ball, but we felt we could pressure him," Shula says. "Our blitz dominated the NFL that season. We put eleven people on the line, and sometimes we'd send them and other times we'd drop into coverage. We never thought Namath, facing that for the first time, would handle it as well as he did."

"We had a system called 'check with me,' which meant I called most of the plays at the line," Namath says. "We got in and out of the huddle in a hurry so I'd have more time to look things over. If you look at the films, you'll see how many times I made a call, saw something [in the defense]

IT WAS HIS STAGE, HIS MOMENT. IT DEFINED HIS CAREER. HE WAS VOTED INTO THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME IN 1985 ALMOST ENTIRELY ON THE IMPACT OF THAT GAME.

and changed off. It looks like we're up there over the ball forever. But that's where we made our calls.

"Another thing you'll notice is, I kept my hands under center the whole time. I wanted to keep the pressure on the defense. I wanted them to think the ball could be snapped at any time. It was a subtle thing, but it was one more thing to keep them off balance. If they had a blitz on, I'd see the linebackers and safeties edging up, trying to get a jump, getting frustrated.

"I felt we had an advantage because the Colts were in a Catch-22 situation. They had this defense that had killed the whole NFL that season. Why should they change for one game against a nineteen-point underdog? So I knew they were going to stick with the same fronts, the same coverages, the same blitzes. It was like having all the questions for an exam two weeks before you actually take it. By the time we played, I knew those guys inside-out."

Namath directed the Jets' offense with patience and precision. He mixed his passes with the powerful runs of fullback Matt Snell (30 rushes, 121 yards) as the AFL upstarts took control of the game.

The Colts could not generate any points with quarterback Earl Morrall. By the time Shula brought sore-armed Johnny Unitas off the bench in the third period, the Colts trailed 13-0. The Jets were in such complete command, Namath did not have to throw a single pass in the fourth quarter. He simply ran out the clock.

The Jets brought the AFL its first Super Bowl victory and the stature needed to validate the merger of the two leagues, which was agreed upon in 1966 and finally completed in 1970. It was a watershed moment in the history of pro football, and Broadway Joe's star power put the Super Bowl at the top of the American sports marquee.

Namath's numbers were unspectacular by his standards—17 completions in 28 attempts for 206 yards—but he was such a commanding figure that he was voted the game's most valuable player. Through the first 32 Super Bowls, 16 quarterbacks have been named Super Bowl MVPs, but Namath is the only one to win the award without passing for at least 1 touchdown.

As Sample says, "Everything that happened that day revolved around Joe."

Indeed, everything about that game still revolves around Joe. It was his stage, his moment. It defined his career. He was voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1985 almost entirely on the impact of that game. It hardly matters that he had only three winning seasons with the Jets, or that his career interception total (220) far exceeds his number of touchdown passes (173). What matters is the image of Broadway Joe trotting off the field, waving his index finger in the Orange Bowl twilight, and reminding everyone that the Jets were number one.

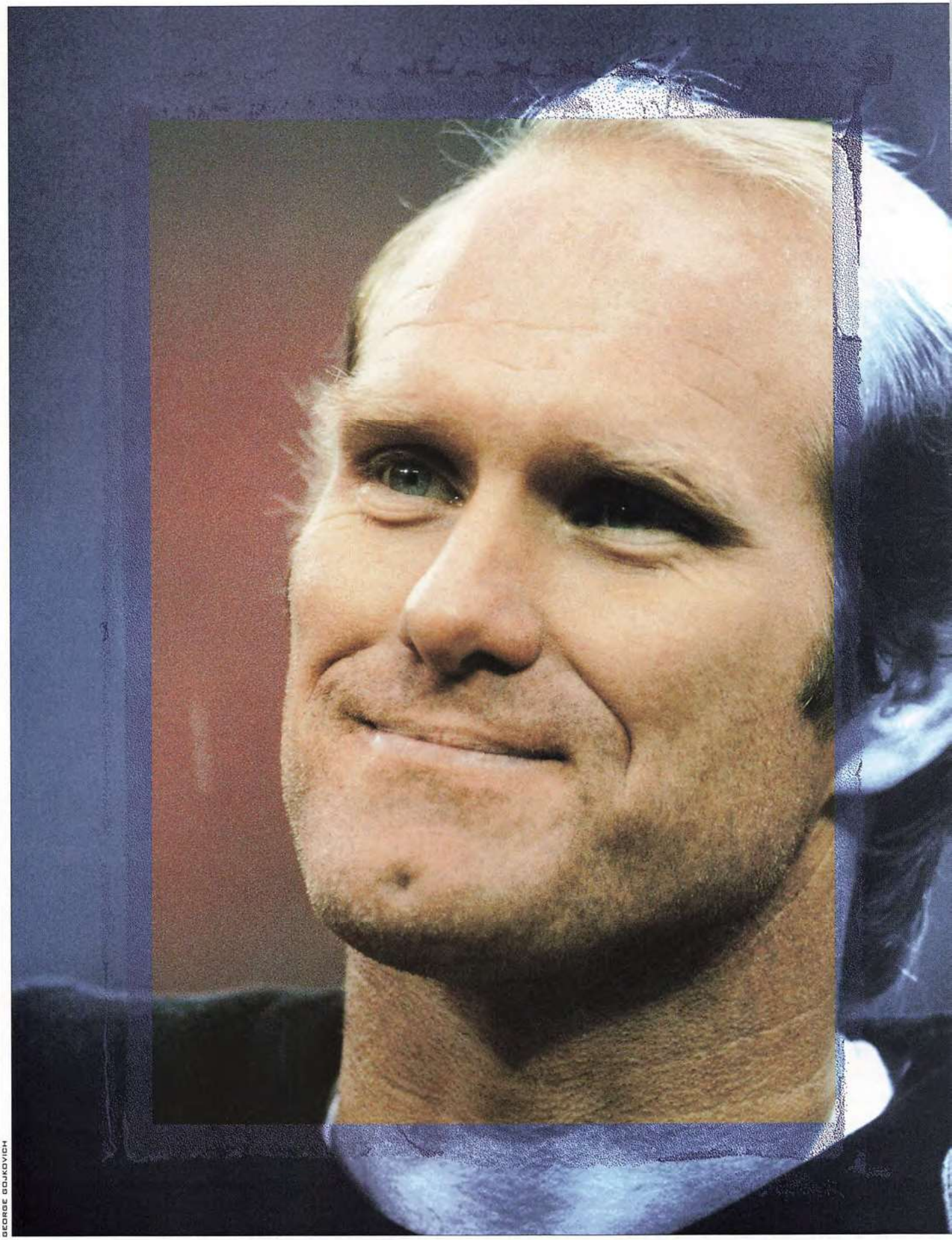
Today, Namath is 55 and married with two daughters, living in Tequesta, Florida, 80 miles north of the Orange Bowl. He appears regularly on the Classic Sports Network and writes a weely online sports column. The once notorious bachelor now relaxes by fishing for snook and flounder in the Loxhatchee River, which flows past his back door. Sometimes when he is alone on the deck, basking in the sunshine, he can almost hear the echo of the fans chanting "A-F-L, A-F-L" from that glorious day 30 years ago.

"We touched a lot of people's lives," Namath says. "I can't tell you how many times I have had people tell me they used our win as a motivating force. Teachers, coaches, everyday people. The moral is the same: If the Jets did it, you can do it.

"We sent a message to all the underdogs out there. If you want something bad enough and you aren't afraid to lay it on the line, you can do it. It's an important message because if people don't have hope, really, what do they have?"

NFL FILMS

NUMBER ONE: After the Jets made good on Namath's guarantee, he waved his index finger in celebration as he left the Orange Bowl field through a crowd.



GEORGE GOJKOVICH

BRADSHAW terry

BY JANUARY, 1979, TERRY BRADSHAW ALREADY HAD LED THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS TO TWO SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONSHIPS. HE HAD THE RINGS TO PROVE IT. BUT UNLIKE BART STARR AND BOB GRIESE, QUARTERBACKS WHO WERE TREATED LIKE ROYALTY AFTER GUIDING THEIR TEAMS TO VICTORIES IN BACK-TO-BACK SUPER BOWLS, BRADSHAW WAS SEEN AS SOMEHOW DIFFERENT. HE JUST DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE THE RIGHT STUFF. HE WAS TALENTED ENOUGH. NO ONE IN THE LEAGUE THREW A MORE POWERFUL

pass than Bradshaw, who could sting a receiver's hands 50 yards downfield. At 6 feet 3 inches and 220 pounds, he was the ideal size and he was naturally gifted, all right. But he was a little rough around the edges. After eight NFL seasons, he still had not been selected to a Pro Bowl.

Even his coach, Chuck Noll, doubted Bradshaw on occasion, benching him at various times for Terry Hanratty and Joe Gilliam, though that ended in 1974, Pittsburgh's first Super Bowl season. Bradshaw's teammates wondered about their quarterback as well. When he once called a power sweep on third-and-30, two offensive linemen threatened to punch him unless he changed the play. At least partly because of his down-home speech patterns, Bradshaw was referred to as "Li'l Abner," a backwoods cartoon character, even as he led the Steelers to their first NFL championship in 1974.

The most valuable player in the Steelers' Super Bowl IX victory was running back Franco Harris, who rushed for 158 yards in their 16-6 triumph over Minnesota. One season later, when the Steelers repeated in Super Bowl X, wide receiver Lynn Swann was named most valuable player for his spectacular performance in a 21-17 victory over Dallas.

Bradshaw performed well in both games, passing for 3 touchdowns with no interceptions, and he outplayed two future Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterbacks in

Fran Tarkenton and Roger Staubach. Still, he was taken for granted.

With their Steel Curtain defense and powerful running game, the Steelers of the mid-seventies were able to win with the quarterback in a supporting role. Bradshaw didn't seem to mind. He was happy just to be with a championship team.

That changed by 1978 as Bradshaw and the offense were required to carry more of the load. A rules change that prohibited contact with receivers five yards beyond the line of scrimmage suddenly opened up the passing game, and the Steelers tilted their playbook in Bradshaw's direction.

He responded by passing for 28 touchdowns (10 more than his previous career high) and was named the NFL's most valuable player by the *Associated Press.*

Even so, when Bradshaw arrived in Miami for Super Bowl XIII—a rematch with Staubach and the Cowboys—he found his old stereotype waiting. Dallas linebacker Thomas (Hollywood) Henderson told reporters: "He [Bradshaw] is so dumb, he couldn't spell cat if you spotted him a C and an A."

"It was like, 'What do I have to do to prove myself?'" Bradshaw says. "We had a great season [14-2], I played better than I had played my whole life, and it was like 'So what?' [Henderson] makes a comment and all of a sudden people are writing 'Terry's a dummy' again."

"We all thought it was out of line," Steelers running back Rocky Bleier says. "Terry had overcome a lot and really had come a long way that year. I think we all realized it was just [Henderson's] way of getting attention. But Terry handled it the right way. He let his performance speak for him."

In other words...

Hey, Hollywood, spell this:

M-V-P.

Bradshaw passed for 318 yards and 4 touchdowns as the Steelers defeated the Cowboys 35-31 in a wildly entertaining Super Bowl that was not decided until Pittsburgh smothered Dallas's onside kick with 22 seconds remaining.

The two teams combined for 6 turnovers, 9 touchdowns, and a dozen plot twists in the highest-scoring Super Bowl to that time. There was the poignant image of Dallas tight end Jackie Smith, playing in his first Super Bowl and final game at 37, dropping a certain touchdown pass while sliding in the end zone, his fists clenched in frustration.

But ultimately the game will be remembered as Terry Bradshaw's coming-of-age party.

"Actually, that whole season was like a coming of age for me as a quarterback," Bradshaw says. "It all built up to that game and when it came, I was ready."

Bradshaw's 318 passing yards represented a career high. The 4 touchdown passes established a Super Bowl record at the time. More than anything, the free-wheeling game plan broke a pattern of conservative title games.

The rivalry between the Steelers and Cowboys was so fierce and the emotion so high that neither team was satisfied merely landing a jab. Every play was a roundhouse swing aimed at the opponent's jaw—and a frightening number connected.

"ACTUALLY, THAT WHOLE SEASON WAS LIKE A COMING OF AGE FOR ME AS A QUARTERBACK," BRADSHAW SAYS. "IT ALL BUILT UP TO THAT GAME AND WHEN IT CAME, I WAS READY."

The Cowboys, the defending Super Bowl champs, sacked Bradshaw 4 times. Henderson stripped him of the ball on one of those occasions, and linebacker Mike Hegman turned the fumble into a 37-yard Cowboys touchdown. That play put the Cowboys ahead 14-7 and sent Bradshaw to the bench, grimacing with a bruised shoulder.

The Steelers appeared in shock as they came off the field. The Cowboys had the lead and the momentum.

Bradshaw quickly turned that around. Ignoring the pain in his shoulder, he went back in the game. Just three plays later, he hit wide receiver John Stallworth with a 75-yard touchdown pass to tie the score. A short time later, Bradshaw passed for another touchdown, this one 7 yards to Bleier, as the Steelers took the lead for good.

But Bradshaw's finest moment came in the fourth quarter, when he made an inspired play call. The Steelers were leading by a tenuous margin of 21-17. They had third-and-9 at the Dallas 22, and Bradshaw correctly anticipated a blitz. So he called a quick trap play to Harris when the Cowboys were expecting a pass. The defense was caught flatfooted as Franco blew past for a touchdown.

Dallas fumbled the ensuing kickoff, and on the next play, Bradshaw went for the kill. He threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to Swann, putting the Steelers ahead 35-17. The Cow-

boys, led by the indomitable Staubach, rallied with two late touchdowns, but it was not enough.

"I don't think any other quarterback could have done what Bradshaw did to us," Dallas defensive end Harvey Martin says. "We knocked him down, almost had him out at one point, but he came back. He deserved the MVP and everything he got after that game."

"Funny thing about the call to Franco," Bradshaw says. "The play before that, Henderson roughed me up and Franco was hot about it. I thought, 'Franco's mad. This is the perfect time to give him the ball.' I never saw him run so hard. He went through that line like a big ol' truck.

"That's what I liked about playing quarterback. Chuck let me call my own plays. I loved being creative and sensing what's going on. Stallworth would come back to the huddle and say, 'Brad, I got this guy on a corner route.' Next play, we're going for it. Bam, six points. Man, that's fun.

"That's missing from the game today. These quarterbacks execute the plays, but they don't make decisions. The coaches took that away from them. That would be like taking away my heart and soul. Let me look in Franco's eyes and see that fire and say, 'Hey, man, you want the ball? Here it is.' It's an emotional game. You need to let that emotion work for you."

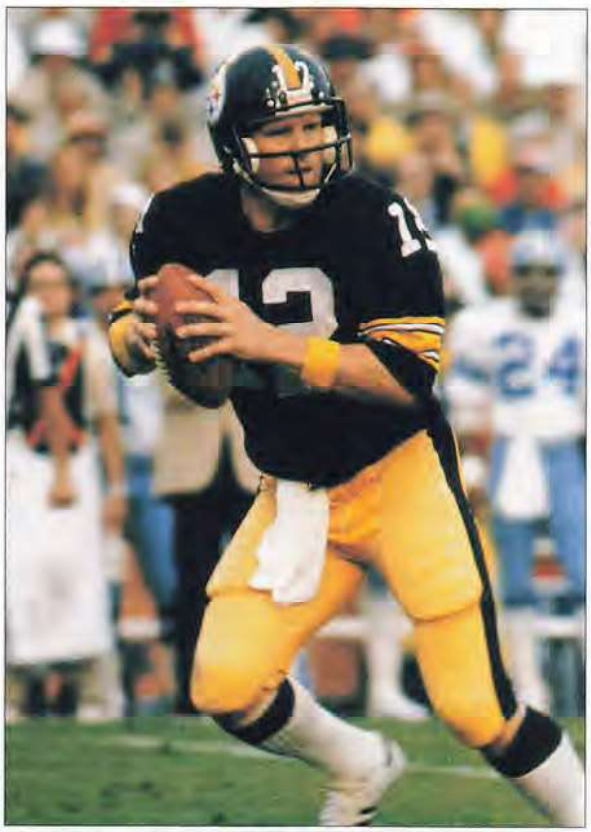
There was no shortage of emotion when the Steelers played the Cowboys in those days. Each team was trying to stake its claim as the "Team of the Seventies." Dallas had won Super Bowls VI and XII. Pittsburgh was victorious in Super Bowls IX and X, the latter a hard-fought victory over Dallas in which a hard tackle by defensive end Larry Cole knocked Bradshaw unconscious in the closing minutes.

"We didn't like the Cowboys," Bradshaw says. "No disrespect to coach [Tom] Landry, who was a great coach, or Roger, who was a great player, someone I really respect. It was the image projected by the organization. It was all the hype about them being 'America's Team.' We resented it. I think most teams did.

"I liked their offense, though. They did a lot of exciting things. They were one of the few offenses I stood on the sidelines and watched because they were so good. They had a lot of weapons, especially when they added [running back Tony] Dorsett. I knew going into that game that we'd have to make some big plays to win because they were going to score."

Bradshaw completed his 4 touchdown passes to three different receivers: 2 to Stallworth, 1 each to Swann and Bleier. The Steelers averaged 6.2 yards a play and successfully converted 9 of 15 third-down situations. Bradshaw was the whole package. He called the plays, made the throws, and led the offensive charge against an accomplished Dallas defense.

One year later, Bradshaw repeated as the Super Bowl MVP, leading the Steelers to a 31-19 victory over the Los Angeles Rams. In his four Super Bowl appearances, all victories, Bradshaw threw 9 touchdown passes, including 1 in the fourth quarter of each game.



JOHN BIEVER

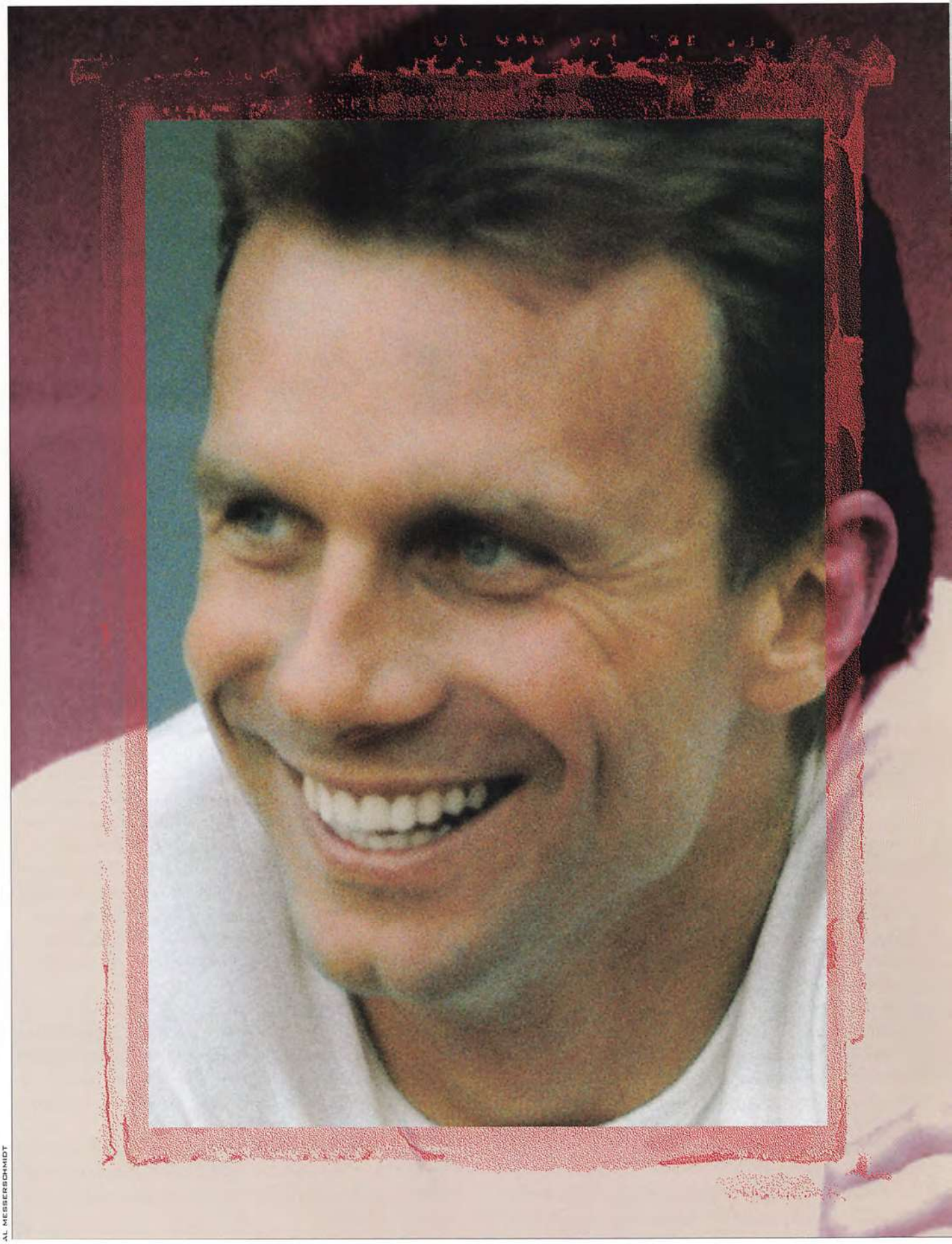
MAN OF STEEL: Bradshaw stood up to a ferocious pass rush and questions about his skills in Super Bowl XIII.

Now 50, Bradshaw is married with two daughters and lives near Dallas. He is co-host of the Emmy Award-winning *FOX NFL Sunday* pregame show. He has come a long way fom his days as Li'l Abner.

"For years, I watched Terry and was amazed at his natural talent. But for a long time, there was something missing," says Joe Greene, the former Steelers defensive tackle who landed in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. "He wasn't having any fun. He was putting too much pressure on himself. That [1978] season was the first season when he seemed to enjoy himself. He was comfortable with the offense and comfortable with himself. He gave the whole team confidence."

"I don't know if I gave the team confidence. I know they gave me confidence," Bradshaw says. "It was a great feeling, looking around the huddle, knowing that whatever I wanted to do, I had the guys to do it. Here, Franco, you run with the ball. Here, Lynn, you catch it. Okay, John, Rocky, it's your turn.

"Imagine yourself sitting on top of a great thoroughbred horse. You sit up there and you just feel that power. That's what it was like, playing quarterback on that team. It was a great ride."



AL MESSERSCHMIDT

JOE MONTANA

JOE MONTANA WAS AT A CAREER CROSSROADS. IN HIS TENTH PRO SEASON, THE 49ERS QUARTERBACK WAS SHOWING SIGNS OF WEAR. A RUPTURED DISC IN HIS BACK, WHICH REQUIRED SURGERY, THREATENED TO END HIS CAREER IN 1986. HE CAME BACK WITH A BRILLIANT SEASON IN 1987, BUT IT ENDED WITH A DISASTROUS PLAYOFF LOSS TO MINNESOTA. IN 1988, ALL SIGNS INDICATED THE MONTANA ERA WAS COMING TO AN END IN SAN FRANCISCO. COACH BILL WALSH HAS BENCHED MONTANA IN FAVOR

of Steve Young during the 1987 playoff loss to the Vikings. Such a move would have been unthinkable a few years earlier, but Montana, at 32, seemed less of a magician and more, well, an ordinary Joe. The 26-year-old Young seemed the rising star.

During the 1988 preseason, Walsh was asked if he had any worries. "We may have a quarterback controversy," he said, opening the door to speculation about Montana being phased out, benched, or even traded. Montana's most-valuable-player performances in Super Bowls XVI and XIX suddenly were faded memories, or so it seemed.

Montana was the starter in week 1 of the 1988 season, but he injured his elbow in a 34-33 victory at New Orleans. Young started the following week, Montana the next. Back and forth it went through the first half of the season. It hardly was surprising that the offense was out of sync. After 11 games, the 49ers were 6-5 and barely alive in the playoff race.

At that point, Walsh fully committed to Montana, and the team rallied behind him. The 49ers won four of their last five regular-season games, then destroyed Minnesota (34-9) and Chicago (28-3) in the NFC playoffs to earn a trip to Super Bowl XXIII at Miami's Joe Robbie Stadium.

In that game, playing the Cincinnati Bengals, Montana assured his place in football

history. A career that just a few months earlier appeared to be in its twilight took on new and even greater luster as Montana led the 49ers the length of the field in the closing minutes to win 20-16. He completed the winning 10-yard touchdown strike to wide receiver John Taylor with just 34 seconds left on the clock.

It was one of those pressure-packed drives—such as the overtime drive led by Baltimore's Johnny Unitas in the 1958 NFL Championship Game, or John Elway's 98-yard drive against Cleveland in the 1986 AFC title game—that defines a great quarterback. And no quarterback ever appeared as much in control as Montana did on that final possession against the Bengals.

Montana led his team 92 yards in 11 plays over 2 minutes and 46 seconds. What's more, he made it look easy. He completed 8 of 9 passing attempts, and his lone incompletion was a deliberate throwaway. That was the hallmark of Montana's greatness. He could make playing quarterback in the NFL look ridiculously easy. He could make winning Super Bowls look easy, which other quarterbacks know it is not. Just ask Dan Marino, Jim Kelly or Fran Tarkenton.

Years from now, when people talk about Montana's career, they will talk about Super Bowl XXIII. He played a total of 16 seasons and he won four league championships, yet that one drive will be where Montana's legend was validated.

It is a curiosity that Montana's biggest victory came at the end of an otherwise mediocre season (he was the sixth-ranked passer in the NFL in 1988). And it was the only Super Bowl he played in which he was not named most valuable player. Jerry Rice won the honor in this game for his 11 receptions and record 215 yards. Montana completed 23 of 36 passes for a Super Bowl record 357 yards and 2 touchdowns.

"That game is certainly my fondest memory," Montana says. "Driving a team in the last minute and throwing a touchdown pass to win the Super Bowl—that's the kind of thing you dream about as a kid."

"It was a game that brought out the best in Joe," Walsh says. "That was one of the great drives in football history, and every one of the calls was dependent on Joe exercising his discipline and his decision-making ability. Joe was perfect in every respect. He was physically, mentally, emotionally in control. To watch Joe on that series, you were watching the greatest quarterback of all time."

"DRIVING A TEAM IN THE LAST MINUTE AND THROWING A TOUCHDOWN PASS TO WIN THE SUPER BOWL—THAT'S THE KIND OF THING YOU DREAM ABOUT AS A KID," MONTANA SAYS.

For a game with such a dramatic ending, the first three quarters were rather uneventful. The 49ers and Bengals were tied 6-6—all the points had come on field goals—until Stanford Jennings returned a kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown that put Cincinnati ahead 13-6 in the final minute of the third period. Montana tied the score with a 14-yard pass to Rice early in the fourth quarter. The Bengals took a 16-13 lead on Jim Breech's 40-yard field goal with just 3:20 left to play.

The 49ers were penalized for an illegal block on the ensuing kickoff, and began their final drive from their 8-yard line. Watching from the bench, Cincinnati receiver Cris Collinsworth recalls hearing a Bengals teammate say: "We got 'em."

Collinsworth asked if number 16 was in the San Francisco huddle.

"Yeah," the player replied.

"Then we haven't got 'em," said Collinsworth, who had played for the Bengals' team that lost to Montana and the 49ers 26-21 in Super Bowl XVI.

The 49ers' offense was standing in the end zone, waiting to begin its drive. Most of the players were shuffling nervously during the television time out. They were trailing by three points with three minutes to go, pinned to their own goal line. Only Montana seemed oblivious to the pressure. He was gazing around Joe Robbie Stadium, taking in the scene.

"Joe said, 'Hey, check it out, there's John Candy,'" tackle Harris Barton says. "I looked up and there was John Candy [the comedian] in the stands, eating popcorn. I'm thinking, 'Yeah, wow.' Then it's like, 'What the heck am I doing? I've got to get my head in the game.' The ref blew his whistle and Joe said, 'Okay, here we go.' He called the play and off we went."

"Joe has a natural instinct for competition," Walsh says, with admiration. "He's able to play in the most difficult situations totally relaxed, almost placid. It's an innate thing that is not coached. He probably had it when he was growing up, playing high school football. It's a marvelous

quality because it affects all the people around him, including coaches.

"Joe would be so composed during a game, I could tease him and he'd tease me back. He might have been sacked two or three times when he'd come off the field. I'd say, 'How is it going out there?' He'd say, 'If somebody would just call the right play, I'd be fine.' He never lost control. As a result, the team kept its poise and played very well in those difficult spots."

"I tried to be the same, whether we were winning or losing, first quarter or fourth quarter," Montana says. "Sometimes you see players come out of character. Late in a game, they get hyper and that's a mistake because it sends a signal to the other players. It's like, 'This isn't right.' The minute you change, they change.

"My attitude was, 'Okay, this is what we're going to do. Two-minute offense, no big deal.' We did it every Saturday in practice. We did it so many times we could do it with our eyes closed. Game day should be no different."

In Super Bowl XXIII, Montana began the drive with safe passes to Roger Craig (8 yards), tight end John Frank (7), and Rice (7). Two carries by Craig gained another 5 yards. Montana then hit Rice for 17 and Craig for 13. The 49ers had a first down at the Bengals' 35-yard line.

Cincinnati coach Sam Wyche was wearing a microphone for NFL Films, and as Montana drove the 49ers into Bengals' territory, Wyche was heard saying: "This is *déjà vu*." As a 49ers' assistant coach years earlier, Wyche had seen Montana perform these kind of drives many times before.

"We just kept the pressure on them," Montana says. "I made sure we got something out of every play. If I had somebody open right away, even if he wasn't my primary receiver, I gave it to him and let him gain five yards. Just so we had something positive on every play."

The drive slowed only once, and that was when Montana almost hyperventilated while shouting signals. On that play, he threw the ball away rather than risk a turnover. On the next play, he dumped a short pass to Craig, but the 49ers were penalized for having an illegal man downfield. That set up second-and-20 at the Bengals' 45.

Montana then hit Rice down the middle for 27 yards. San Francisco had a first down at the 18. On the next play, Montana passed to Craig for 8 yards. The 49ers called time out with 39 seconds remaining. A chip-shot field goal would tie the score and force overtime. Walsh warned Montana to be careful in this situation. Do not force a bad pass and wind up turning over the ball.

Montana nodded his agreement, but when he left the sideline and returned to the huddle, he was thinking of only one thing: touchdown.

The play was "20 halfback curl, X-up." Craig was the primary target, but if the safety went with him, Taylor should be open.

It was good call, but Craig lined up on the wrong side of the formation. He still ran the route, the safety followed Craig, and Montana fired a strike to Taylor cutting through the end zone.

Some camera angles made it look like an easy pass. Viewed from above, Taylor appeared wide open. But the camera behind Montana showed there actually was a narrow space between the cornerback and safety, a window of a few feet, open for a fraction of a second. Montana found it just before it slammed shut.

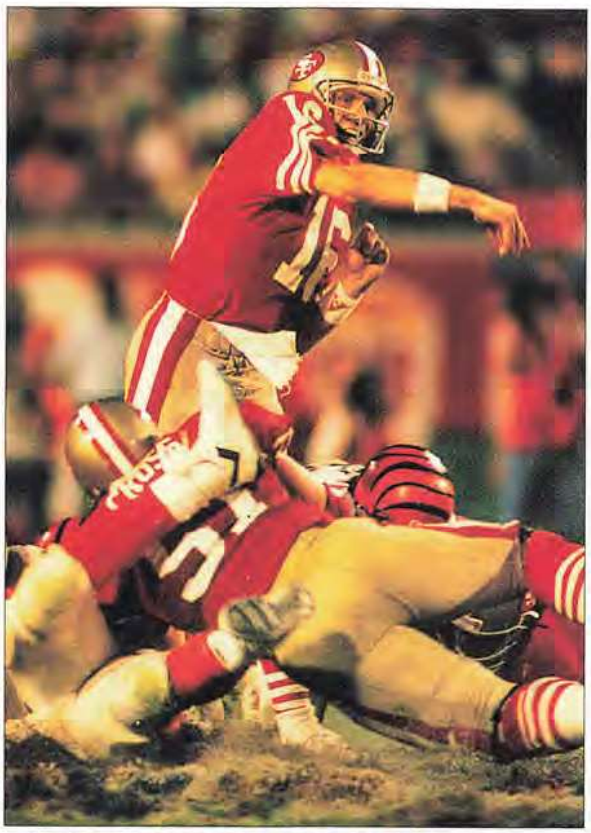
Was it a risky throw?

Not for Joe Montana.

The following year, Montana came back and won his fourth Super Bowl, this time a 55-10 blowout of the Denver Broncos. He finished his career with almost every Super Bowl passing record, including a 68 percent completion rate, 11 touchdown passes, and no interceptions in 122 attempts.

Montana, 42, is enjoying his retirement with wife Jennifer and their four children in northern California. He has kept a low profile since leaving the game in 1994, but that will change. Look for him on the steps of the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, in the year 2000, when he is sure to be a first-ballot inductee into pro football's shrine.

"Some guys get tighter the bigger the game is, but Joe just seemed to get better," former 49ers guard Randy Cross says. "If every game were a Super Bowl, Joe would have retired undefeated."



RICHARD MACKSON

JOE COOL: With the final seconds ticking down and the game hanging the balance, Montana was unflappable.

MORE MIAMI MEMORIES

OTHER MIAMI SUPER BOWLS HAVE GIVEN US THRILLS, SPILLS, AND CHILLS

Super Bowl XXXIII marks the eighth time Miami has opened its doors to welcome pro football's elite. Other than Super Bowls III, XIII, and XXIII, here is a quick synopsis of previous Super Bowl games played in Miami.

SUPER BOWL II

GREEN BAY 33, OAKLAND 14

This was the last game in which Vince Lombardi coached the Green Bay Packers. Although the legendary coach had not told the players of his plans to retire, rumors were circulating.

"Players suspected something was up when Lombardi broke a long-standing rule and allowed our wives to accompany us on the trip," quarterback Bart Starr says.

The Orange Bowl was filled with 75,546 fans, marking the Super Bowl's first sellout, as the AFL-champion Raiders attempted to thwart the Packers' bid for back-to-back Super Bowl victories.

Green Bay led 16-7 at halftime, then maintained possession for all but 2:39 of the third quarter, scoring twice to build a 26-7 lead. Cornerback Herb Adderley's 60-yard interception return for a touchdown capped the Packers' scoring.

True to the legacy of the man whose name is engraved on the Super Bowl trophy, the Packers did not commit a turnover and were flagged for just one penalty.

As time expired, Packers linemen Forrest Gregg and Jerry Kramer lifted Lombardi onto their shoulders.

"This is the best way to leave a football field," Lombardi said.

SUPER BOWL V

BALTIMORE 16, DALLAS 13

It was not a thing of beauty. But it was exciting—at least at the end.

Super Bowl V marked the third time in four seasons the Orange Bowl had hosted the game. It featured 11 turnovers, 14 penalties, the first rookie head coach to win a Super Bowl (the Colts' Don McCafferty), and most-valuable-player honors for a player from a losing team (Cowboys linebacker Chuck Howley). Rookie kicker Jim O'Brien's 32-yard field goal with five seconds remaining decided the game.

Trailing 13-6 to begin the fourth quarter, the Colts were stopped twice—first by a Cowboys' interception in the end zone, then by a fumble at the Cowboys' 5-yard line that rolled through the end zone for a touchback. However, the Colts' defense intercepted Craig Morton 3 times in the game's final nine minutes. Rick Volk's 30-yard return to the Cowboys' 3 set up Tom Nowatzke's tying touchdown, Mike Curtis's 13-yard interception return with 59 seconds left led to the decisive field goal, and Jerry Logan's interception on the game's final play secured the victory.

O'Brien, who was so nervous he attempted to pull blades of grass off the Orange Bowl's artificial turf to check the wind before his winning kick, was an unlikely hero. His career included just three more seasons in the NFL.

SUPER BOWL X

PITTSBURGH 21, DALLAS 17

There was no love lost between the Cowboys and Steelers.

"I remember telling a reporter I hoped a shark would bite off one of Roger Staubach's arms," Steelers linebacker Jack Lambert says.

Dallas coach Tom Landry responded in kind: "The Steelers are an arrogant team. They haven't learned humility, but they will."

Trailing 10-7 early in the fourth quarter, the Steelers got a lift when Reggie Harrison, a reserve running back, blocked Mitch Hoopes's punt through the end zone for a safety. Harrison was dazed. "I still don't know what happened," he said, "but it [the ball] split my tongue."

Roy Gerela, playing with a cracked rib suffered while making a tackle on the game's opening kickoff, kicked 2 field goals to put the Steelers ahead 15-10. Then, faced with third-and-4 from Pittsburgh's 36-yard line and barely three minutes left to play, quarterback Terry Bradshaw and wide receiver Lynn Swann took over.

Swann had suffered a concussion in the AFC Championship Game that left him unable to practice until the day before the Super Bowl. But no one could tell when he outran his coverage to catch a 64-yard touchdown pass from Bradshaw. Bradshaw, who was knocked unconscious by Larry Cole just as he delivered the bomb, never saw the catch.

The Cowboys rallied for a touchdown and reached the Steelers' 38 in the closing seconds, but Pittsburgh safety Glen Edwards intercepted Staubach's final pass to secure the victory.

SUPER BOWL XXIX

SAN FRANCISCO 49, SAN DIEGO 26

In the second Super Bowl held at the current site (then called Joe Robbie Stadium), the 49ers and Chargers combined to set a Super Bowl record for most points (75).

For the Chargers, who had enjoyed a "Cinderella" season, the clock struck midnight just three plays into the game.

Quarterback Steve Young fired a 44-yard touchdown pass to Jerry Rice to stake San Francisco to a 7-0 lead. Next came a 51-yard scoring pass to Ricky Watters and a 14-0 lead less than five minutes into the game.

Young, the game's most valuable player, set a Super Bowl record with 6 touchdown passes, and Rice equaled his own mark with 3 touchdown receptions. San Francisco became the first team to win five Super Bowls.

—Matt Marini

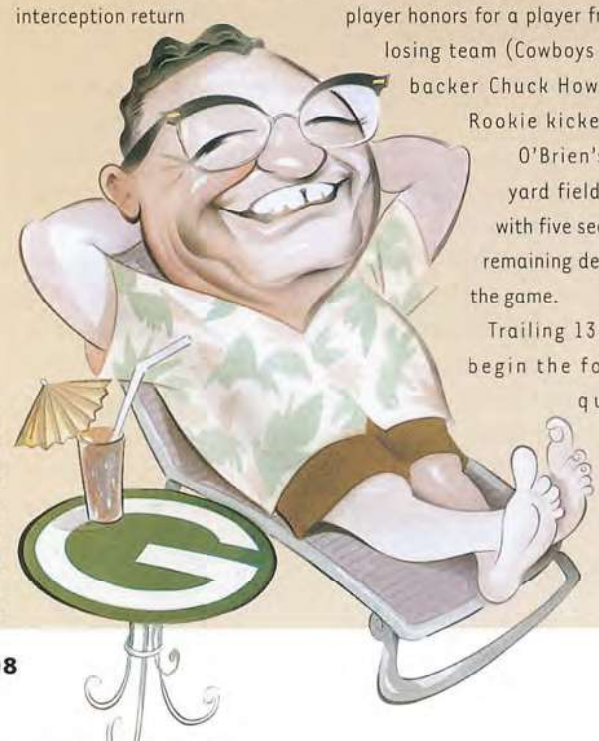
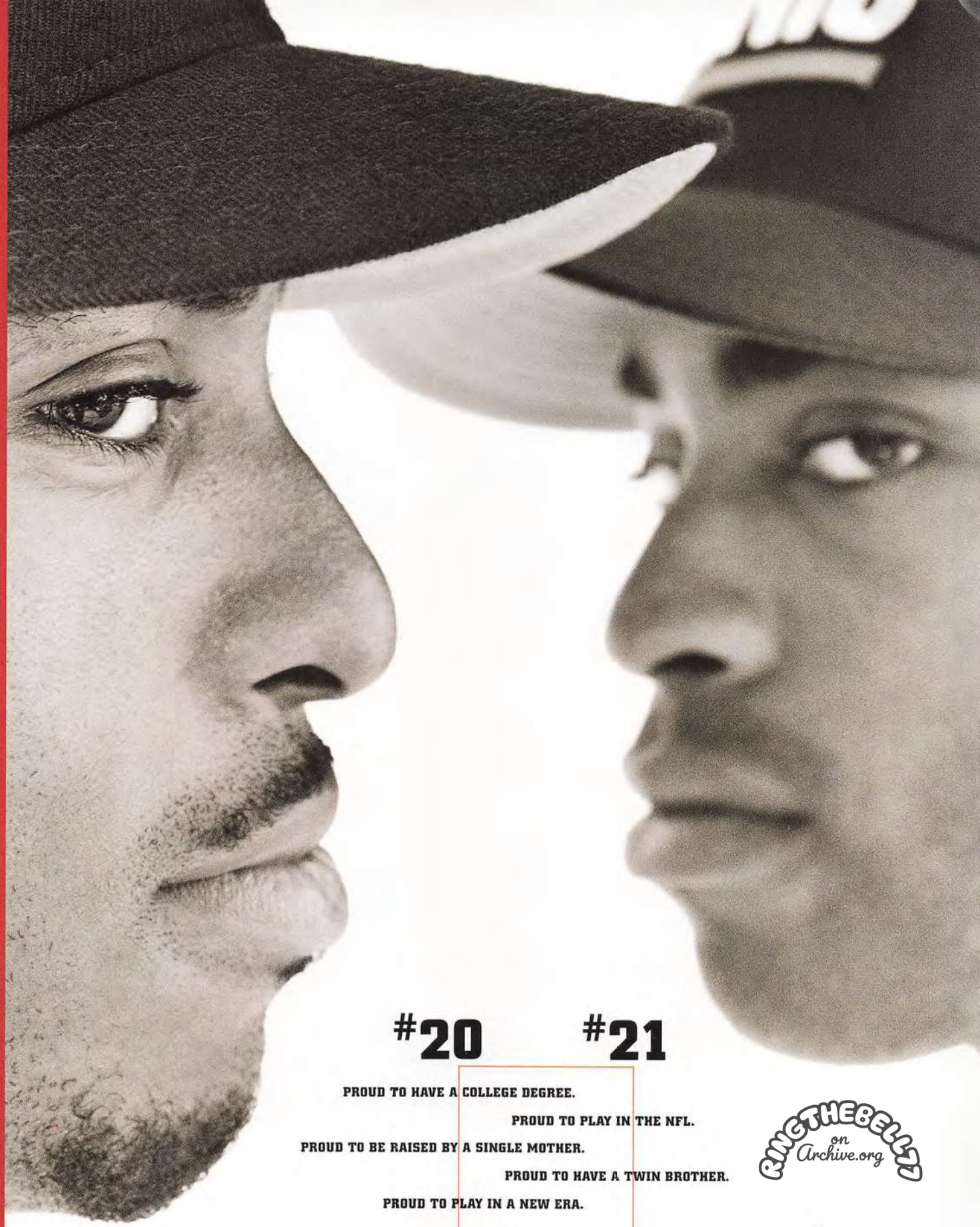


ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC PALMA

FOND FAREWELL: Vince Lombardi enjoyed Miami in his last game as coach of the Green Bay Packers.



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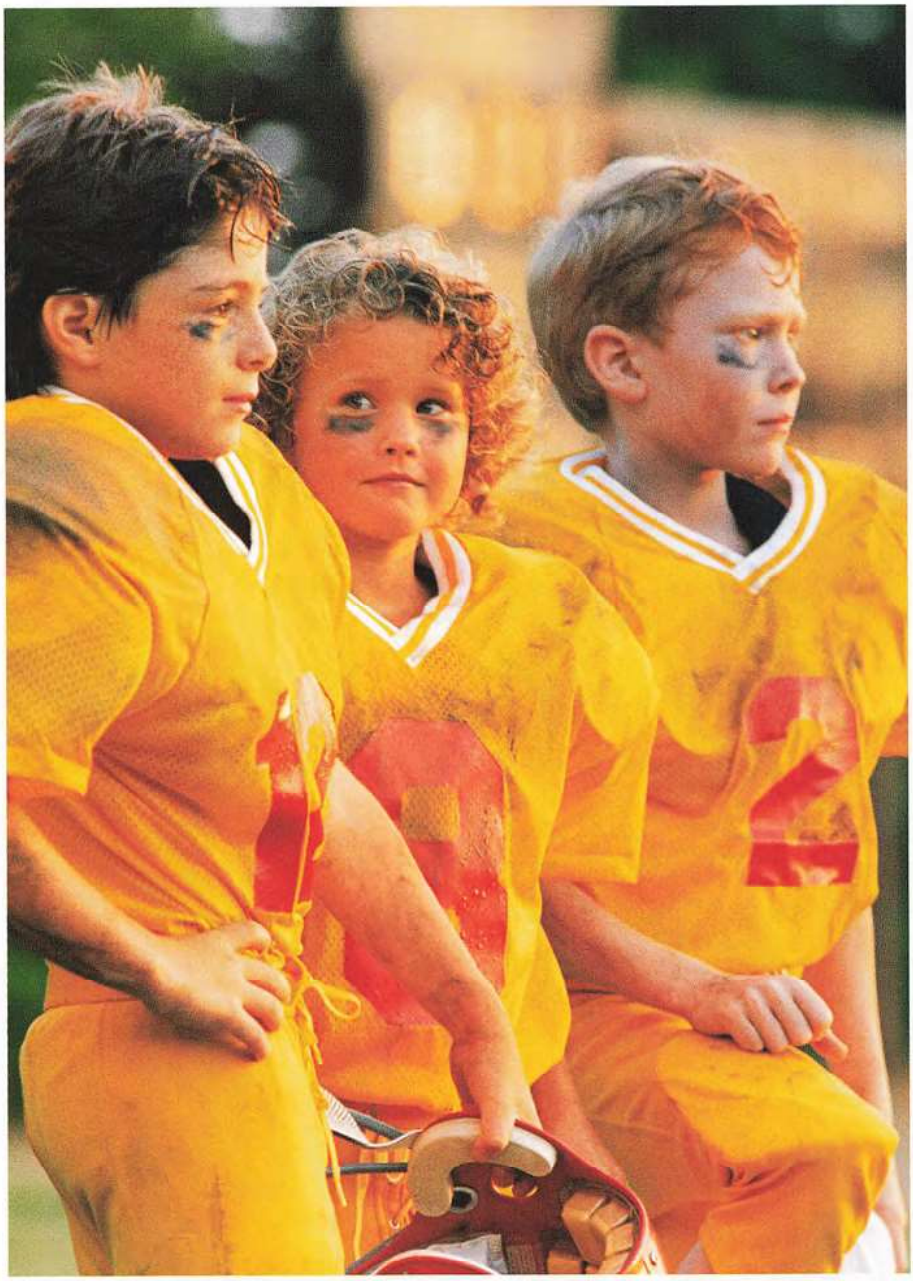

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Leading Man

by john wiebusch

The Denver Broncos had a great year in 1998. Won Super Bowl XXXII in January. Powered through the fall schedule with the best record in the AFC. Finished on top of the voting in a November referendum for a new stadium in Denver. A great year.

Paul Tagliabue had a great one, too. The man who stepped into the large and charismatic shadow of former Commissioner Pete Rozelle 10 Super Bowls ago had a year to bronze as the end of the century approaches.

In the what-have-you-done-for-me-lately world of sports business, Tagliabue was the man at the controls of the NFL in a time of epic achievements. Consider these accomplishments in 1998:

- An eight-year television package that makes all previous TV contracts, in any entertainment venue, seem like blips on a radar screen, and with the NFL continuing to do what no other league does—televise all its games on free TV.
- An extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the NFL Players Association through 2003 that guarantees labor peace for all of the first 15 years of Tagliabue's tenure and makes the NFL the only major sports league with no labor disruptions in the 1990s.
- The creation of an unprecedented $100 million Youth Football Fund with the NFLPA as an outgrowth of the TV deal and labor agreement extension.
- The awarding of an expansion team to Cleveland to fulfill the commitment to restore the Browns franchise in a new stadium. The expansion to Cleveland opened the way to the probable expansion to a thirty-second team—either Los Angeles or Houston.
- The opening of new stadiums in Baltimore and Tampa Bay, plus the successful referendum for a new stadium in Denver, as the renaissance of football stadiums in the nineties continues.
- Six new division champions in 1998, reflecting the competitive balance and quality of the game NFL leadership has worked hard to shape.
- Rising popularity in the form of record 1998 attendance, plus a Harris Poll reporting the NFL, already America's favorite sport, "is becoming more and more popular."

For all of this, Tagliabue, 58, was rewarded with a personal contract extension by the owners that goes through 2005, the year he turns 65 and when he has promised his wife Chan that he will retire to a life with only occasional phone calls, a life that includes days off between July and January.

Until then, however, there are miles to go before he even thinks about sleep. And, unsurprisingly, he has a vision of what those next seven years will be like.

"Better and always fan-friendly," he says. "We reach 125 million people a week now. Given the accessibility of the new technologies—the Internet, satellites, high-definition TV, interactive TV—I see us reaching many millions more. I see tremendous passion for the game, a league of thirty-two healthy teams. No question the sport has gotten more commercial, which is a down side. Our challenge will be to continue the passion in spite of that."

He pauses, shifting his angular 6-foot 5-inch frame in a chair of his office above Park Avenue in New York. "The strength of our game is in its people. The passion and respect for those people are what carries us. But ultimately I really believe that we're about community, about connecting with our fan base at every level."

It is far too early to be thinking about epitaphs, but Tagliabue recently heard something from Steelers coach Bill Cowher that had the sound of one.

"I was in Denver for the rookie symposium [an introduction seminar for first-year players] last summer," the commissioner says, "and Cowher was addressing the incoming class. He said, 'The thing you need to understand is that your talents got you here, but it is your decisions that will determine how long you stay.'"

He nods at an inner thought. "That fits me. It's something I live by, even though I never had thought specifically about it. For me, my performance is my measuring stick...my priority. When that happens everything else falls into place.

"*Your decisions will determine how long you stay.* I'm always determined to do the decent thing, the right thing."

It is a credo he has followed since he took the reins from Pete Rozelle on November 5, 1989.

Rozelle had been NFL commissioner for 29 years, and following him was like following Pavarotti at the Met, Sinatra in a saloon, Robin Williams in a comedy club. Rozelle never met a microphone or a camera he didn't like.

ILLUSTRATION BY GARY KELLEY

"They are very different people," says Joe Browne, an NFL executive who has worked closely with both men. "Pete was more laid back, quieter, and lost his cool about once a decade. Paul is direct, more results driven, and can outthink any problem. Pete was a listener who charmed you with words. Paul will debate you, but eventually you give in because he's right ninety-nine times out of a hundred. It truly has been an 'education on the job' working with them. They each brought unique styles, and persuasive powers, plus strong leadership skills. Being NFL Commissioner is not exactly a civil service job, but both seemed to thrive on the action and the challenges."

In a mostly smooth and ascending trajectory, Tagliabue took the NFL structure he inherited in 1989 and adapted it to the challenges of the times—free agency, new technology, stadium needs, team movement, expansion, and the evolving nature of the game and its players. Tagliabue took over the number-one sport and pushed it uphill. His darkest days as commissioner came in 1995-96 in a reprise of issues that plagued Rozelle in the 1980s. There were the franchise shifts (Cleveland to Baltimore, the Rams to St. Louis, the Raiders to Oakland, and the Oilers to Tennessee), and other challenges to his authority.

"Nothing in my years here was sadder than the franchise moves," Tagliabue says. "To have Los Angeles, Houston, and Cleveland lose their teams was a terrible thing. These are bedrock cities for the league. But good can come out of bad. We got Baltimore, St. Louis, and Oakland back in the league. We expanded at that time into Carolina and Jacksonville and got two great franchises and two great ownerships.

"We also began the immediate process of solving the Browns' situation, which will culminate in 1999 when the Browns will play in front of the Dog Pound again."

The legal basis for franchise shifts was set by the Raiders' original move from Oakland to Los Angeles in 1982. Rozelle initially blocked the move, but Los Angeles and the Raiders eventually prevailed in court. Other moves followed in that decade—the Colts from Baltimore to Indianapolis, the Cardinals from St. Louis to Phoenix.

"Those situations were great frustrations for Pete in the eighties," says Tagliabue, legal counsel to Rozelle (and the NFL) for 20 years, "just as similar situations have been for me in the nineties."

Dealing with 31 teams and varying viewpoints is the ultimate in high-wire acts.

"My philosophy always has been to listen to everyone," Tagliabue says. "I think one of the dumbest things you can do as a leader is to just listen to people who agree with you, who you're comfortable with. We structure our committees so there's a wide diversity of views. It is truly amazing how out of that diversity often comes creativity and consensus."

Tagliabue relies on a mix of long-standing and newer owners on NFL committees to help him through the maze of issues presented by the league's unique business partnership among fierce competitors on the field. For example, revenue sharing is a hallmark of the NFL's success but it also leads to contentious disputes at times.

"I see most revenue always being shared," Tagliabue says. "It is what helped make this league great over the years. It is a balancing mechanism, and I think we will continue to maintain a good overall balance. But one thing our revenue sharing is not is corporate socialism. There always will be incentives for owners who are entrepreneurial. Two-thirds of gate receipts still belong to the home team. There are other ways for enterprising owners to generate revenue.

"My philosophy always has been to listen to everyone," Tagliabue says. "I think one of the dumbest things you can do as a leader is to just listen to people who agree with you, who you are comfortable with. We structure our committees so there's a wide diversity of views."

"What has made the owners more competitive among themselves is player free agency. It has changed the character of the league in many ways, and you are always walking a fine line between losing key parts of your team or building key parts of your team."

The value of NFL franchises has reached record levels and the game's popularity continues to soar.

"Pete Rozelle always said this game was made for TV," Tagliabue says, "and truer words were never spoken. I believe the popularity of the game will continue to rise because it has two major things going for it. One is the continued strength of the game, the public passion for pro football. The other is television and technology. The media revolution, the content revolution, the software revolution—however you want to characterize it—we are a major, major part of it.

"Consider the explosion and volume of NFL television over recent years. It used to be one game on Sunday afternoon and that was it. Now, with the pregame shows, we start at ten on Sunday morning in the East and go until midnight that night. Then add Monday night, postgame shows, daily cable shows, and we have practically wall-to-wall TV coverage. That has a tremendous effect on our culture.

"This appeal for the game is the biggest reason for the increase in franchise value. You can measure the appeal of NFL football, which also underlies the public support for new stadiums. Why do people vote for these stadiums? It is because when all is said and done they understand that this is the

most popular form of mass entertainment in their state. In Colorado, more than seventy percent of the entire state watches Broncos games on TV, so it is not just the seventy-five thousand people who go to Broncos games who voted last November for the stadium initiative that passed overwhelmingly. It is a state vote fueled by passion for a team and a sport."

Tagliabue is asked if he is bothered by the rash of media stories that pooh-pooh parity, that question the quality of the game.

"Not at all," he says. "One of the guys in our office has a story from *Sport* magazine in the early sixties in which the headline says something like, 'Will there ever be another great quarterback in the NFL now that Van Brocklin and Waterfield have retired?' No, the more things change the more they remain the same. Will there ever be another Dan Marino or John Elway? Then along comes Brett Favre. Will there ever be another Jerry Rice? Then along comes Randy Moss."

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

Tagliabue spends lots of time with the league's Competition Committee, especially in offseason meetings. He knows the importance of dealing with game-related issues. "He's a former athlete himself," says Dennis Green, Minnesota Vikings coach and a member of the Competition Committee. "He understands and cares about the game. It's great to see that type of interest and leadership coming from the commissioner."

Keeping the roots of the game strong is the reason the league has pledged $100 million over five years to youth football programs.

"It wasn't long ago that $100 million over five years would have been the revenue of a team," Tagliabue says. "We want to provide a focal point for everything we are doing with high school programs, the Punt, Pass and Kick program, and with other Play Football programs. We are forming a partnership with the NFL Players Association that will be a platform for reaching out to youth at every level."

The idea of the NFL and the NFL Players Association being in partnership on anything 20 years ago would have been as unthinkable as, say, the U.S. and Russia collaborating on a space station. In an atmosphere of great contention, the war between the league and the players resulted in a nine-week strike during the 1982 season and a strike-shortened 1987 season that included three weeks of games played with replacement players.

"There was a lot of confrontation and a lot of instability during the eighties," Tagliabue says. "Both of those disputes had the same underlying problem—what the player system should be. Pete Rozelle had never been through anything like that; the *league* had never been through anything like that. I think we all learned something."

A large share of the credit goes to the peacemakers—Tagliabue for the league and Gene Upshaw for the NFLPA. In the 1980s, you would never sit Upshaw's predecessor, Ed Garvey, and Rozelle at the same table anywhere. In the 1990s, Tagliabue and Upshaw break bread on a regular basis.

"I recognize that Gene has a constituency to represent—and he does a helluva job of doing that in a tough, realistic way," Tagliabue says. "I also take him very seriously in that role as I think he does me in mine.

"This is one class act, a Hall of Fame guy [Upshaw was a guard with the Raiders from 1967-1981] who looks at the big picture, not from a narrow perspective. He looks at the game from a fan's perspective. He keeps the focus on that. But the bottom line of our relationship—and why we've been able to extend the CBA throughout this decade and through 2003—is that I respect that he has constituents, he respects that I have constituents...and then we are open and honest about what our bottom lines are."

If you get the idea that Tagliabue is a man who looks at life with an unpretentious openness, you're right.

"He takes his job very seriously," says Chan Tagliabue, Paul's wife of 33 years (they have a son, Drew, 30, and a daughter, Emily, 27). "But he doesn't carry it around with him. He stays in the office until he's ready to leave, but when he leaves, he leaves.

"Paul is a very fair, very decent person. He's extremely honest, and he is not judgmental, which I find remarkable. But he also is fun to be around. He has a sense of humor. He loves to read—we both do. I take care of the fiction, he takes care of the nonfiction. That's practically all we do when we get away to Maine."

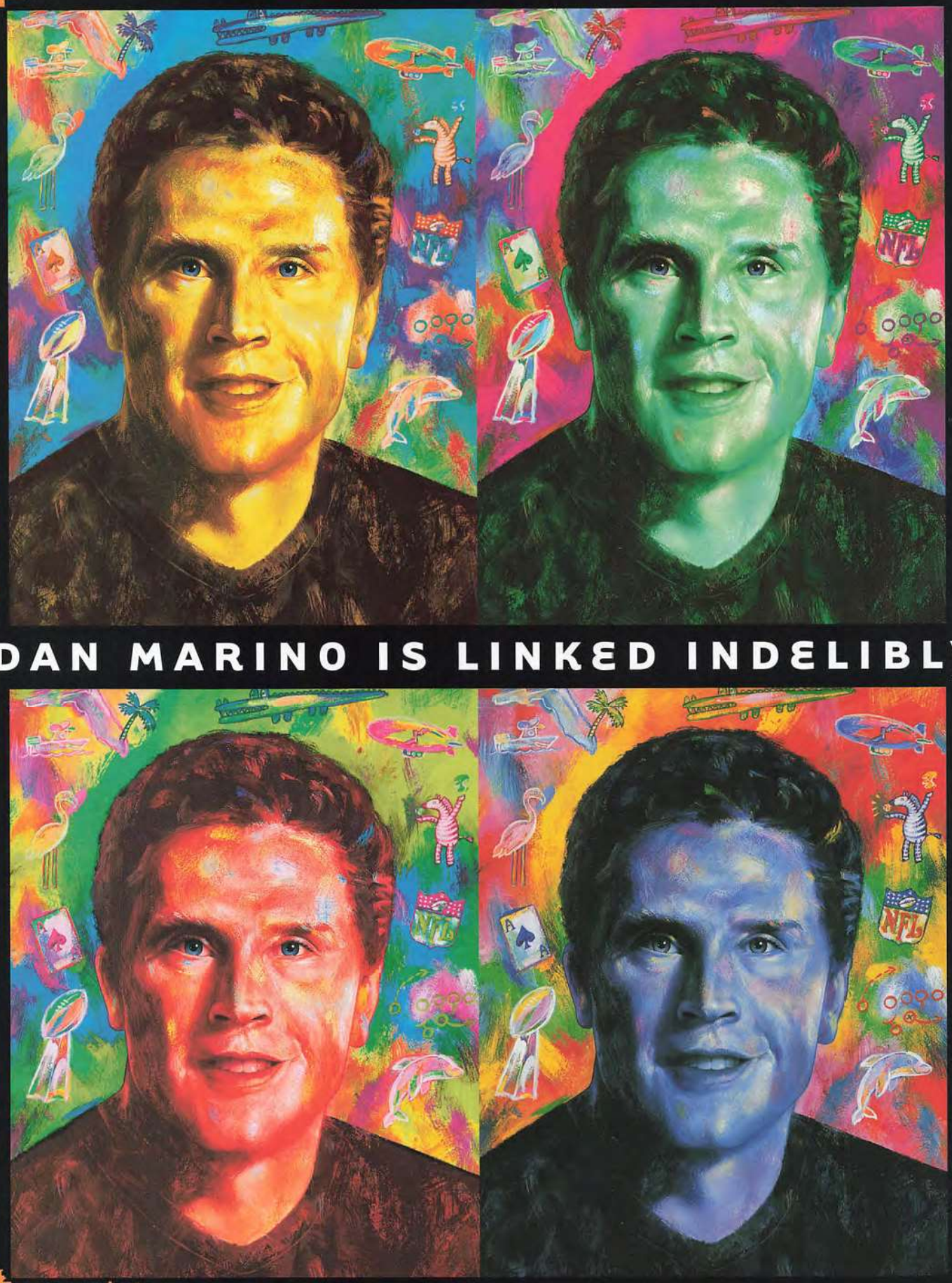
A couple of years ago, the Tagliabues purchased a summer home on an island, a half-hour boat ride out of Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

"There are no phones there and cell phones don't always work," Chan Tagliabue says. "There's also no TV because there's no cable and weak broadcast signals. There's no newstands and no newspaper deliveries, either. It's heaven!"

The commissioner of the most popular sport in a place with no phone, no TV, and no newspapers?

"When the boat docks, I open a book," he says. "I agree with Chan...it's heaven."

Far from the madding crowds, Paul Tagliabue has life in perspective.



DAN MARINO IS LINKED INDELIBLY

ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN ZICK

The PRIDE of MIAMI

WITH THE CITY WHERE HE HAS STARRED

BY SCOTT OSTLER

MIAMI'S GUY

If Miami were a sleek automobile, Dan Marino would be the hood ornament.

Marino isn't the only symbol of Miami pride, of course. Mounted on the dashboard of our Miamimobile would be a statuette of St. Shula, patron saint of perfect seasons. Gloria Estefan would be blasting from the stereo. Sonny *(Miami Vice)* Crockett would be driving, Pat Riley riding shotgun.

But Dan is the man out there in front, representing excellence and excitement, the sun glinting off his chrome number 13 jersey, his right arm cocked to initiate the next launch in Miami's one-man space program.

How long has Marino been Miami's golden boy? Sixteen seasons. To whom did he throw his first touchdown pass, Ponce de Leon? (Actually, it was Joe Rose.)

Marino sauntered into town in 1983 and realized, as he says now, "It wasn't Pittsburgh." He got himself an apartment on the beach in Hollywood, bought a Corvette, and started throwing passes.

He passed for 48 touchdowns his second season, and he took the Dolphins to the Super Bowl. And this is what he means to Miami, then and now: With Marino, you might not win every game, but nobody kicks sand in your face.

"He was the hot new kid in town, wasn't he?" someone says to Bob Monica, one of Marino's pals.

"Yeah," Monica says. "Now he's the hot old kid in town."

Miami never cooled on the kid, and he never cooled on Miami. They have cheered him wildly in every role he has played on the big green stage: Cocky Phenom, Fiery Leader, Comeback Kid, Tragic Hero, and, off the field, Neighbor Dan.

Marino has raised a family here, opened three restaurants, built a children's hospital wing, learned the breaks of every golf green in the county, signed a million autographs, and called out a trillion greetings of "Hey, howyadoin'?"

Marino and Miami have bonded.

"I consider this place my home,'" he says. "I've lived here sixteen years, had four children here, have been able to grow with the community, and formed relationships and friendships that will last a lifetime."

Dolphins fans do not even want to think about life without Dan. Every season, every week, something major or minor is wrong with the Dolphins, and it never has been Marino. He is the rock.

"Throw the ball, Danny!" the fans shout.

Marino used to have a pet phrase: "Pick a guy and let it fly." His teammates adopted that as their mantra.

The Dolphins also have been known to say, "If Danny ain't throwin', we ain't goin'."

But Danny's always throwin'.

THE ARM

"He was just born to throw the ball."

—Edwin Pope, columnist, Miami Herald.

Jon Giesler was the Dolphins' left offensive tackle in 1983, entrusted with protecting the rookie quarterback's blind side. The seventh game of the season, against the Jets, was Marino's second start.

"We had the ball on about the Jets' twenty-five,"

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Giesler says. "The play was a pass over the middle. The man I was supposed to block slipped and fell, so I'm standing up, my head on a swivel to pick up someone to block.

"Dan threw the ball just over my head and as it went over I could hear the seams whistle. The pass was to the tight end, Joe Rose. It hit him on the two-yard line and knocked him into the end zone.

"I had never heard the seams of a football whistle."

Dan Marino whistles the ball.

He is the NFL's all-time leader in career pass completions, passing yards, and touchdown passes.

"His release is of folklore," says Ron Jaworski, who quarterbacked with and against Marino. "He's got absolutely every pass you need, he's incredibly accurate, and he has amazing vision.

"I was always an overachiever. I had to work hard. With Dan, it was effortless. It used to get kind of annoying, actually."

Marino's quick release defies the mechanical laws of throwing. It is as if he skips a step or two in the process, like a man changing a tire without using a jack.

Maybe Marino could give you a technical explanation of his quick release, but he doesn't because tech talk isn't his thing.

Writers gathered around Marino one afternoon and asked him to analyze a particular aspect of the Dolphins' offense. Dan grimaced and said, "Geez, I don't want to think that hard."

Jaworski was Marino's backup in 1987 and 1988, and he marveled.

"He wasn't the most studious guy," Jaworski says. "He talks the game, he understands the game, he could be on TV. He's just not studious. I called him Mudslide. He didn't work out with weights then, didn't run five miles a day, didn't treat his body like a temple. I was used to spending a lot of time studying, and I'd talk to him about that. He'd say, 'Don't worry about it, Ron.'

LOUIS DELUCA

READY, AIM, FIRE!: Marino's instructions to his receivers sometimes are as simple as, "Get open. I'll get it to you."

"Applaud," Jaworski says.

Duper caught 492 passes from Marino, 55 for touchdowns, and was on the same uncomplicated wave length.

"I'd hear all this talk about our sophisticated passing offense," Duper told columnist Dave Hyde of south Florida's *Sun-Sentinel*, "and it was, in a lot of ways. But it used to tickle me, if Dan didn't like a play they'd send in, he'd say, 'Bleep that play. Bleep that.'

MARINO'S QUICK RELEASE DEFIES THE MECHANICAL LAWS OF THROWING. IT'S AS IF HE SKIPS A STEP OR TWO IN THE PROCESS, LIKE A MAN CHANGING A TIRE WITHOUT USING A JACK.

"But he knew exactly what [Mark] Duper and [Mark] Clayton and [Jim] Jensen could do against every defensive back they faced. Dan could create matchups better than the coaching staff could. Under Shula, he had a boatload of audibles."

Pass audibles. Mark Dennis spent seven years blocking for Marino, but he cannot remember him even once audiblizing to a run.

And when Marino would shun the coaches' carefully crafted plays and go with his own gut feelings, what would the coaches do?

"Then he'd say to us in the huddle, 'Okay, Duper, Clayton, get open. I'll get it to you.' That's what we'd do. We'd go out and haul ass downfield and he'd get it to us."

Marino has a short game, too, but he tends to think more in vertical terms. If you don't believe it, just ask his dog, Touchdown.

THE BORE

Miami sizzles and crackles like an over-amped neon sign. It is one of the world's great party towns, but Marino didn't get the memo.

Whatever Happened to...

THE QUARTERBACK CLASS OF 1983

Dan Marino was a member—the last one selected, as it turned out—of a heralded class of six quarterbacks taken in the first round of the 1983 NFL draft. Another was a guy named John Elway. Hardly anyone asks how their careers turned out: They are the only two quarterbacks in NFL history to pass for more than 50,000 yards.

But that's not to say that the rest of the class faded from notice. Each member left his mark on the NFL, and each still treasures his membership in the fraternity. They were the Class of 1983: Elway (number-one pick overall, Colts; traded to Broncos), Todd Blackledge (7, Chiefs), Jim Kelly (14, Bills), Tony Eason (15, Patriots), Ken O'Brien (24, Jets), and Marino (27, Dolphins).

"I knew it was an elite class when I went to the scouting combine and saw those guys throw," Kelly says. "Tony Eason's arm just amazed me!"

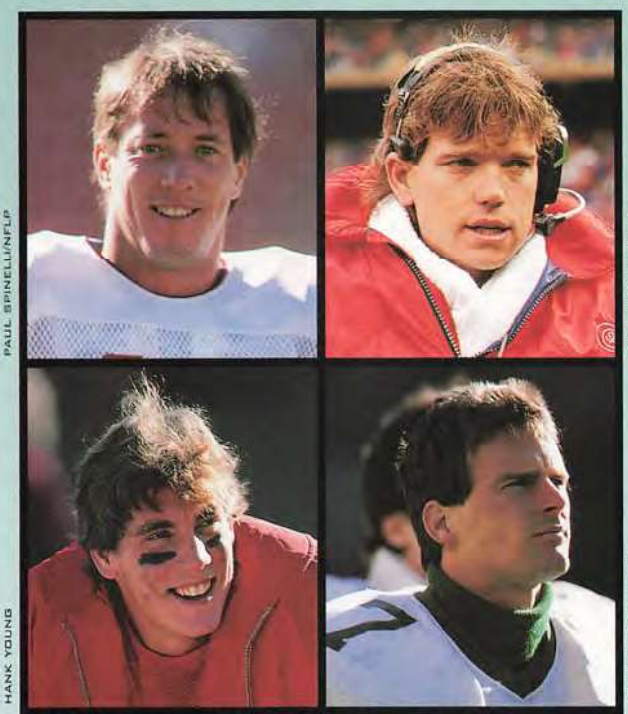
How did the Class of '83 fare? Of the 15 Super Bowls played since its members came into the league, 10 games have featured a Class of '83 alumnus. Not until last year, though, did they have a Super Bowl victory. When Elway led his Broncos to an upset over the Packers, it also was a triumph for the Super Six.

"I was so excited," Kelly says. "I was getting tired of people saying how no one from our class had won. Finally, John took the monkey off our backs."

Only Elway and Marino still are in uniform.

"I'm totally amazed that those two clowns are still playing," Eason says with a laugh. "Especially John, who in the last three or four years is playing maybe the best football of his career."

How about the retirees?



PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

HANK YOUNG

GEORGE GOJKOVICH

QUARTERBACK CLASSMATES: (clockwise from top left): Jim Kelly, Tony Eason, Ken O'Brien, and Todd Blackledge.

JIM KELLY (11 seasons, Bills), who played in the now-defunct USFL for two seasons before coming to the NFL, had a glorious run in Buffalo, which he led to the Super Bowl four times. He now is a television commentator on ESPN's NFL Countdown and a corporate spokesman for three major companies, but considers his main job to be charity fund raising.

Jim and his wife Jill have a daughter Erin and a son Hunter, who was born with Krabbes disease. Much of Kelly's time and energy is devoted to raising funds for Hunter's Hope, a foundation to fight Krabbes disease.

"I knew I had great fan support when I was a player," Kelly says, "but you can multiply that by twenty when people find out that a child needs help."

TONY EASON (8 seasons, Patriots and Jets) was a starter only three seasons, but has no regrets.

"It was a rainbow," Eason says of his career. "There were amazing highs [he led the Patriots to Super Bowl XX] and low lows [the Patriots lost 46-10]. I took a lot from football in terms of personal growth. Now when I watch on TV, I can't believe I ever played that game. I must have been crazy."

Eason lives near Clarksburg, California, the small town he grew up in, on the Sacramento River. He is a financial portfolio manager, studying to become a chartered financial analyst. Single, he is the only one of the six quarterbacks no longer involved with football. Does he miss it?

"Oh, yeah," he says. "I miss the last two minutes of the game, when everyone's dial is turned up all the way. The locker room, too—the values and character of the guys I played with."

KEN O'BRIEN (10 seasons, Jets and Eagles). He was from a college not known for football, California-Davis, but O'Brien adapted quickly to the pro game. He became a starter with the Jets in his second season and held the job for seven seasons.

"I had ten great years in the NFL, and I enjoyed every second of it," O'Brien says. "Playing football really delays being anything but a kid for a long time."

He and wife Stacey have four kids, and Ken is the quarterbacks coach at USC.

After retiring, O'Brien did some broadcasting work in Sacramento.

"One day I drove by the practice field at Davis," he says. "One of my old coaches was there, I said something about coaching, and he said 'Come on out tomorrow.' When I told my wife, she started laughing.

"I feel like I've found a niche, I really like working with kids."

TODD BLACKLEDGE (7 seasons, Chiefs and Steelers). "I played longer than a lot of guys," says Blackledge, who lives in Canton, Ohio, with his wife Pamela and three children. "I didn't achieve the kind of success at that level I'd hoped I would. But I've been fortunate to get into a new career I feel good about."

Blackledge does broadcasting work for ABC and ESPN as a studio analyst and color commentator for college football games. As a collegian, he helped Penn State to three consecutive victories in New Year's Day bowl games, plus the 1982 national title.

"I was a ball boy with my dad's teams [Ron Blackledge coached at both college and pro levels], and I've been in football ever since," Blackledge says.

The Super Six still have loose ties. Elway, Marino, and Kelly play in each other's charity golf tournaments. There is a mutual group admiration and lasting friendships among the six.

"It was a real privilege to be a part of that group," Blackledge says.

—Scott Ostler

MARINO'S BLAND IMAGE IS NO ACCIDENT. HE WORKS HARD AT BEING NONCONTROVERSIAL, KEEPING HIS PRIVATE LIFE PRIVATE.

"I'm kind of a boring guy," he says.

He gets invited to parties thrown by neighbors such as Madonna and Stallone, but prefers to hang around the house.

The rookie with the beach condo and the Corvette soon settled down and married a girl from Pittsburgh. They live about as unglamorously as you can live when you have a palatial estate, a chauffeured limo, a race car, and three restaurants, and hold down a glamour job in one of the world's most glamorous towns.

"We're not real exciting, I'm sorry," Dan's wife Claire says. "We do nothing really strange. We don't skydive. We just sort of stay home."

What does Dan like to do at home?

"He likes his satellite," Claire says. "He likes to click. It's hard to get him to stop on one show for very long."

He's not channel-surfing, he's calling audibles.

Marino's bland image is no accident. He works hard at being noncontroversial, at keeping his private life and private thoughts private. He's good at it.

When one newspaper writer was assigned to cover the Dolphins, he introduced himself to Marino, who said cordially, "It's nice to meet you. You'll never get (bleep) from me."

Marino doesn't stir up trouble, rag on teammates, rip coaches, gossip, whine, brag, philosophize, or wax poetic.

"Intentionally dull," one Miami writer says.

Away from football, he plays golf and enjoys simple pleasures with family and friends.

NFL PHOTOS

FAMILY MAN DAN: Wife Claire and the kids—Dan, Michael, Alexandra, and Joseph—joined Marino in a TV spot for United Way in 1998.

"You know what Dan likes?" says Monica, the Dolphins' former equipment manager. "He likes to go to dinner with friends and family, have a nice bottle of wine. He's really into wines. He's like an old guy.

"I'll tell you what," Monica adds, "the guy hasn't changed a bit. Not a bit. Except now the wines are more expensive."

And he has a family. Dan and Claire have three sons—Dan (12), Michael (10), and Joseph (9)—and a daughter, Alexandra (6). Dan takes them to hockey games and attends their soccer and baseball games and activities, just like a regular dad.

When Michael was 2, he was diagnosed as autistic. The Marinos dug in and aggressively fought to find treatment for what can be a heartbreaking and mystifying condition. During Michael's entire first year in a special school, he did not speak a word. Then, he began to emerge from the fog, to join the world of his family.

Now Michael is in regular school, in the fourth grade. Autism is treatable, not curable, but Michael's now is nearly undetectable. Dan and Claire consider him a blessing, just as the Marinos have been a blessing for south Florida. Dan and Claire, inspired by their experiences with Michael, funded the Miami Children's Hospital Dan Marino Center, a satellite hospital for kids with chronic medical needs.

"It feels good," Claire says, "to know that for all the people going through things we went through, things will be a lot easier."

THE WARRIOR

"Dan came home Sunday night after the Buffalo game," Claire says, "and he hasn't been that beat up in a long time. Next morning he comes down the stairs, holding on to the railing. I said, 'Dan, you told me this was fun. Is it still fun?' And he goes, 'It doesn't get any better than this, honey.'

"When he would have an injury, I used to say, 'Dan, why are we still doing this?' He'd say, 'This is what I love to do, Claire.'"

It's that simple. At age 37, the warrior rolls on.

"I played in the NFL seventeen years," Jaworski says. "I played with a lot of guys who would leave everything out there on the field. But Dan Marino was absolutely the fiercest competitor I've ever been around.

"He would will victory. He took others to new levels just by the way he carried himself. It was magical, it really was."

And it was there from the beginning.

"I used to bring the water onto the field for the time-out huddle," Monica says. "The first game Dan played, he strolled into the huddle, everyone was talking, he just took control. 'All right, let's go! Keep it down!' Scared? That word and Dan Marino don't go hand in hand. From the first day, he knew what he could do, I'll tell you that."

Marino was fourth in the Heisman Trophy voting in 1981,

but two years later he was the twenty-seventh player and the sixth quarterback drafted. Scouts were not convinced Dan had the complete attitude package.

That draft was the last time anyone questioned Marino's attitude.

Before games, Marino is quiet and calm. But at kickoff he turns into an emotional fireball, sometimes almost out of control. He paces the sidelines, barks at coaches, and screams at teammates.

He used to scream at Duper and Clayton if they made a mistake or dropped a pass.

"You're the one making a million dollars," Duper would scream back, "throw the ball where I can catch it!"

Now Marino has eased up a bit, to spare the trauma to younger receivers, but you won't find him lounging on the bench or winking at the television cameras.

He limps a lot. He wears braces on both knees, a hip brace, a shoe brace for an ankle that has a screw in it, a special shoe for an old Achilles tendon injury. He lugs around more metal than R2D2, remnants of nine knee and leg operations. He hurt his left knee in college, and he has it drained before most games.

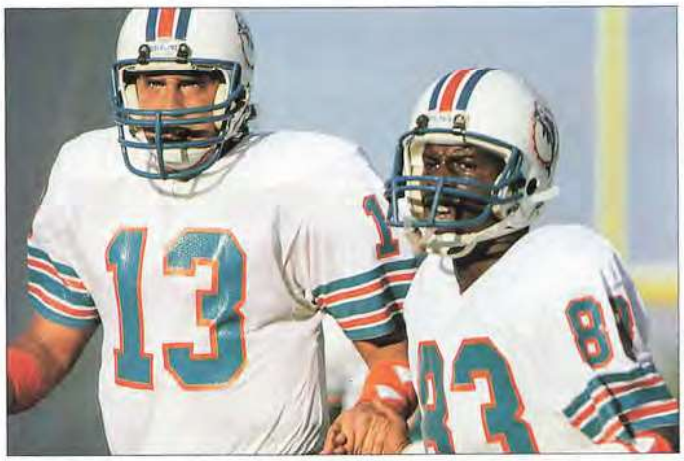
Old Mudslide has come to realize that conditioning is essential to survival for senior citizens. He changed his ways about three years ago, and he now does serious weight-training year-round, practices yoga, and has trimmed off a lot of the baby fat he once carried.

He's still the tough kid who unloaded trucks and shoveled concrete, who watched his dad work two jobs, and who heard about how his grandfather died at 27 in a steel-mill accident.

You take your lumps, come back tomorrow, and punch in again. Marino once started 155 consecutive games, and has missed only 18 starts because of injuries in 16 seasons.

Dan took Claire to a Rolling Stones concert at Pro Player Stadium a couple of years ago, and he sat on the ledge of their luxury box, dangling his feet over a drop of 200 feet.

"Dan!" Claire said. "Don't sit there, you could fall."



PROLIFIC PAIR: Dan Marino and wide receiver Mark Clayton worked hand in hand for 10 memorable seasons.

RECORD SETTER: Marino, who holds the NFL record for touchdown passes, never has seen a defense he couldn't beat.

Marino leaned forward and looked down, then looked back at Claire and said, "I could take that hit."

THE END

Dan Marino is a civic treasure, but that is no guarantee of a happy ending in the city where he has starred. Just ask Johnny Unitas or Joe Namath or Joe Montana.

Marino's contract with the Dolphins expires at the end of the 1999 season, then...who knows?

"There's still that one thing he doesn't have, that he hasn't accomplished," Claire says. "We talk about it. He really wants to end his career a Miami Dolphin, but sometimes he'll say, 'God, are we gonna get there [to the Super Bowl]?'

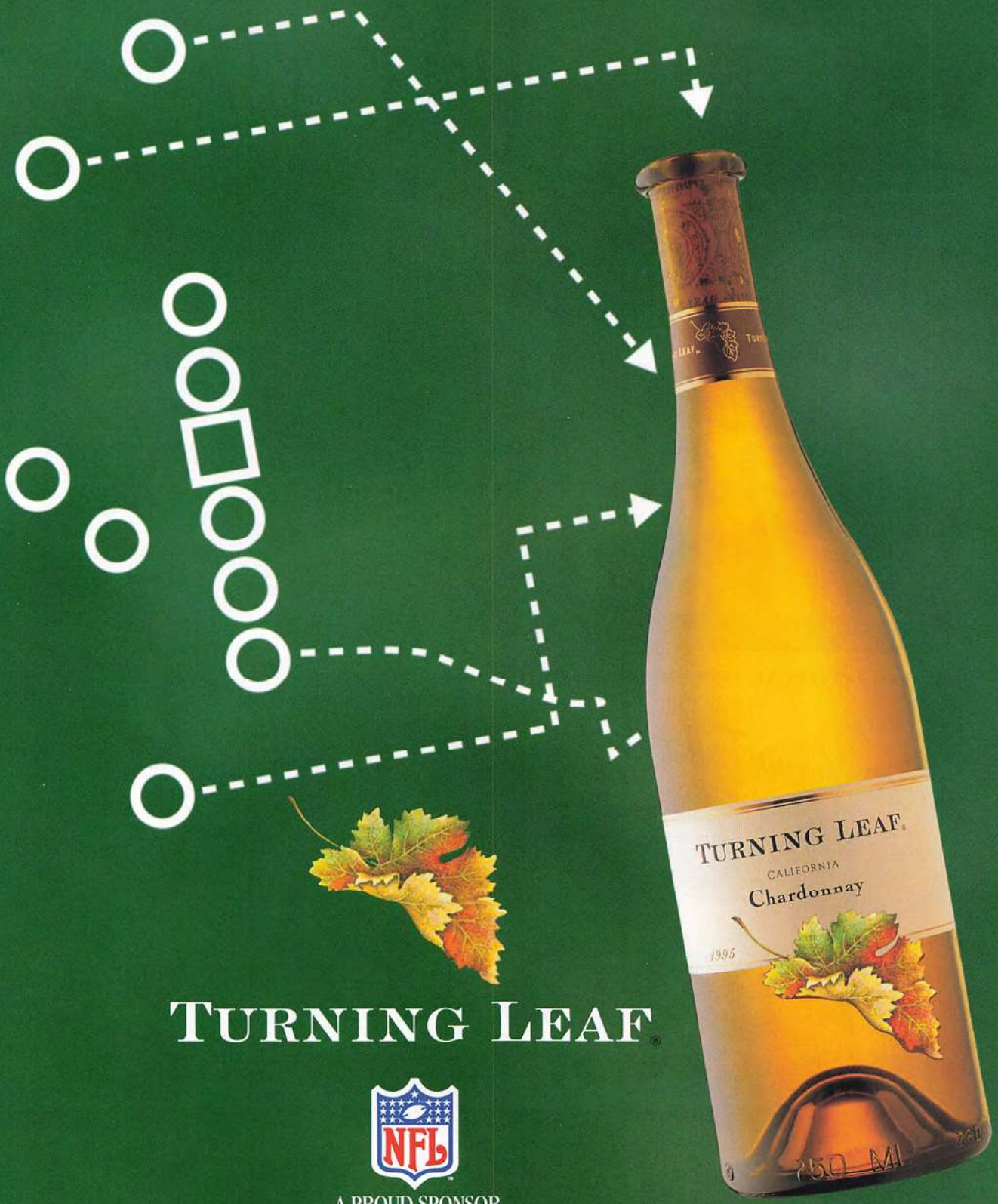
"There's such a fondness for the city and the people, and we've been here forever. Dan is very proud of that. I don't think he would want to play anywhere else. But the game's so crazy, and sometimes you just don't know."

Maybe some day Miami will erect a giant statue of Marino, a Statue-of-Liberty-sized version of that hood ornament.

And all around the greater Miami area will be smaller statues of various Dolphins receivers—Duper and Clayton running sprint routes at opposite ends of South Beach, Jensen slanting through Overtown, Nat Moore running a curl in Coconut Grove. And all of them will be looking back at Marino.

He will be looking deep.

The Perfect Play for Friends.



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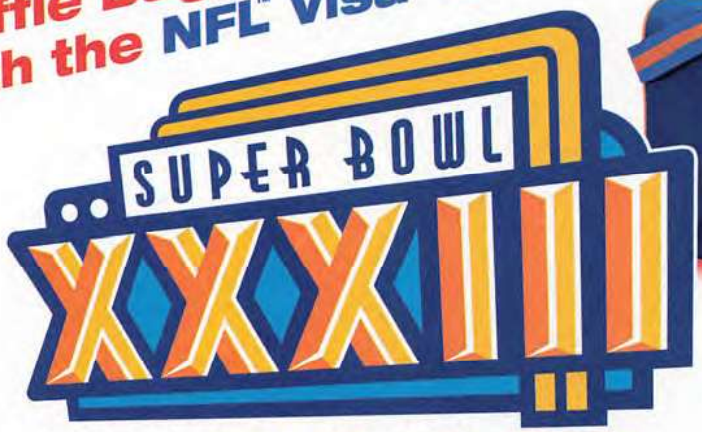

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That's My Boy

by dave barry

It's late October, and I'm watching my son play football.

Well, okay, he's not technically playing. He's on the sidelines, number 85, standing near the coach, looking alert, hoping the coach will notice him and send him in. I'm not so sure this is a good idea because the other team's players are extremely large. They're supposed to be junior-high students, but if they are are, they apparently started junior high later in life, after having played a number of years for the Chicago Bears. They look extremely mature. You can actually see their beards growing. They probably have to shave in the huddle.

In stark contrast, my son's team, the Raiders, consists of normal-sized seventh- and eighth-grade boys, except for player number 9, Nicole, who is a girl. From a distance, with their helmets and shoulder pads on, the Raiders look big enough, but this illusion is shattered when you see them up close, or when one of their moms walks past, towering over them.

For some reason the Raiders' opponents always are larger. Also, they seem more aggressive. They punch each other a lot and spit and sneer and probably eat live chickens on the team bus. Also, they're always gathering together and emitting loud, menacing, unintelligible football roars, whereas the Raiders tend to chat. The Raiders are a more laid-back group. Sometimes they try to make a menacing football roar, but it comes out sounding half-hearted, like a group throat clearing.

This is the Raiders' sixth game. So far they've won one; that victory was sealed when the opposing team, in what has proved to be the Raiders' season highlight so far, failed to show up. The Raiders lost all the other games, in large part because...at least this is how I analyze the situation from a strictly technical standpoint...they have not scored any points.

Usually, when the Raiders have the ball, giant live-chicken-eating Chicago Bears knock them down and take it away. Whereas when the opponents have the ball, they give it to some enormous player who cannot possibly be in junior high school because any given one of his calves is larger than a junior high school. This player lumbers toward the plucky Raiders defenders, who leap up and latch on to him, one after the other, until the runner is lumbering down the field with what appears to be the entire Raiders defensive unit clinging desperately to his body, the whole group looking like some bizarre alien space creature with many extra heads and arms and legs and two really huge calves.

On the sidelines, we grownups yell helpful advice.

"Tackle him!" shouts a Raiders coach. "Somebody tackle him! Okay? Okay? Please?"

"Bite his ankles!" shouts a man.

Inevitably, the Chicago Bears score a touchdown, causing us Raiders parents to groan. The Raiders cheerleaders, however, remain undaunted. They have a cheer for just this situation. It goes (I am not making this cheer up):

"They made a touchdown!

"But it's all right!"

The Raiders cheerleaders remain perky and upbeat no matter what happens in the game. They face us parents, going through their routines, happy in their own totally separate cheerleading world. A plane could crash on the field and they might not notice, and even if they did, I bet it wouldn't seriously impact their perkiness ("A plane crashed on the field! But it's all right!")

Of course, they have good reason to be cheerful. They're in no danger of being converted into gridiron roadkill by the Chicago Bears. My son, on the other hand, is...

My son is going into the game.

The coach is telling him something. I hope it's good advice (such as "Tennis is a much safer sport."). And now number 85 is trotting onto the field; and now he's taking his position on the Raiders' defensive line; and now both teams are lined up; and now my son is crouching down in his stance, ready to spring forward, and...

THERE HE GOES! GET 'EM, ROB! STICK YOUR HELMET COMPLETELY THROUGH SOME BIG FAT CHICAGO BEARS BODY AND OUT THE OTHER SIDE! YES! WAY TO GO! WAY TO POUNCE! WAY TO BE...

Offside. Whoops.

Okay, so he was a little overeager. But he did fine after that,

ILLUSTRATION BY GARY KELLEY

Humorist Dave Barry of the *Miami Herald*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, has authored numerous best-selling books, including *Dave Barry Turns 50.*

as far as I could tell, lunging around out there just like everybody else and managing to go four full plays without once losing an important limb or organ. Another positive note was that Nicole got into the game and was actually sort of involved in a tackle, a feat that earned her some major high-fives when she returned to the bench.

But that was pretty much the highlight for the Raiders, who became increasingly resigned and philosophical as it became clear that they were going to lose yet again. Meanwhile, the Chicago Bears, feeling smug, were punching each other and emitting fierce victory grunts.

"I BET OUR S.A.T. SCORES ARE HIGHER," I wanted to yell. But, of course, I did not, as I prefer not to have my head stomped into pudding.

Finally the game ended, and even though the Raiders again failed to score any points, we parents were tremendously proud. We clapped and cheered with pride as they trotted off the field.

They think we're crazy.

FOOTBALL FEVER

It is the time of year when we put the holiday season behind us; a time when we suck in our stomachs, leave the cozy confines of our homes, go back out into the working world, purchase some beer, return to our homes, and lie down in front of our TVs.

It's time for the pro football playoffs.

I love to watch football on TV, and I will tell you exactly why: I have no idea. Perhaps the appeal of this game stems from some basic biological urge, dating back millions of years to when primitive spear-carrying men would go into the forest to hunt game for their families, and their very survival depended on their ability to operate a remote control.

Perhaps the appeal of this game stems from some basic biological urge, dating back millions of years to when primitive spear-carrying men would go into the forest to hunt game for their families, and their very survival depended on their ability to operate a remote control.

Whatever the attraction is, a lot of women seem to be immune to it. I have seen women walk right past a TV set with a football game on and...this always amazes me...not stop to watch, even if the TV is showing replays of what we call a "good hit," which is a tackle that causes at least one major internal organ to fly out of a player's body. The average guy cannot ignore something of this importance. He is going to stop and watch, even if he's supposed to be doing something else, such as reporting that his house is on fire....

Every Thanksgiving, my family attends a gathering at the home of our friends Gene Weingarten and Arlene Reidy. The women gather in one room and talk about careers, relationships, and world events, while the guys, most of whom see each other once a year, gather in front of the TV and stare cowlike at the football game. We even watch the pickup-truck commercials, despite the fact that most of us are journalists who rarely haul any payload larger than, say, a bagel. We do not talk, except to analyze the fine points of the game....

I don't want you to think that all we guys do at this gathering is watch football. We also play football, in the back yard. It's a demanding game. For one thing, each player has recently consumed his weight in onion dip. For another thing, the Weingarten-Reidy yard is not a regulation football field: It is a small hillside covered with thousands of regulation dog doots, provided courtesy of two large, high-output, retriever-style dogs, Harry Truman and Clementine, who add to the complexity of the game by racing around in frantic circles at high speeds, like subatomic particles in the Superconducting Collider, but not as intelligent.

We play Standard Backyard Touch Football Rules, which require that, on each down, the offensive players must spend a minimum of five minutes in the huddle, devising a pass play more complex than the Clinton Health Plan, calling for curls, hooks, slants, feints, cutbacks, laterals, running all the way around the house, diving into the hammock, giving the ball to a small child and instructing the child to cry if an opposing player comes near, etc. Once we designed a play that involved spitting on the defensive backs.

When the ball is snapped, everybody forgets about the play and concentrates on (a) not falling down, and (b) avoiding the pass rush, which is a threat to players on both sides inasmuch as it is provided by Harry Truman, a relentless competitor who definitely will bite your leg.

GAME DAY

This is it. Game Day. No more speculation, no more talk.

If you're a player, the time has come to put on your pads, jersey, wristbands, ankle tape, cleats, bandanna, decongestant nose strip, helmet, and, of course, cellular phone in case you make an actual tackle and need to call your agent.

Then it's time to sit quietly in the locker room and focus on the task ahead until finally, having reached the ultimate state of mental preparedness, you throw up.

Then it's time to run out onto the field, to hear the throaty roar of 85,000 frenzied executives, to sense the watching eyes of 750 million TV viewers, to experience the ultimate adrenaline rush of realizing as you step into the glaring spotlight of worldwide attention that you forgot to put on your pants.

Yes, fundamental mistakes can play a role in the Super Bowl.

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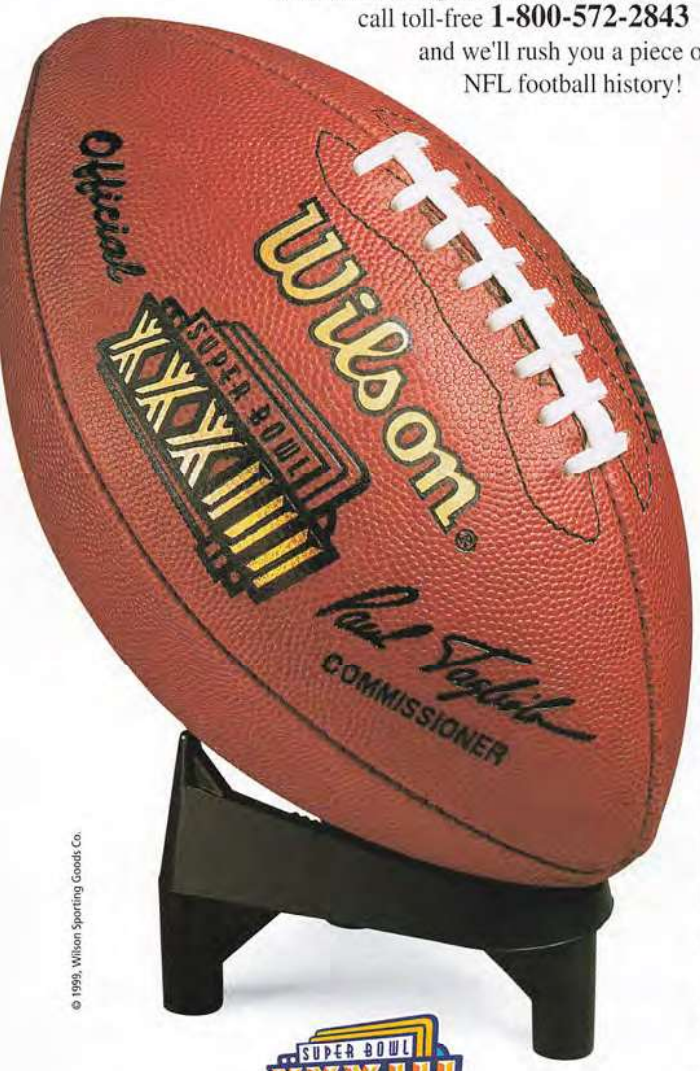

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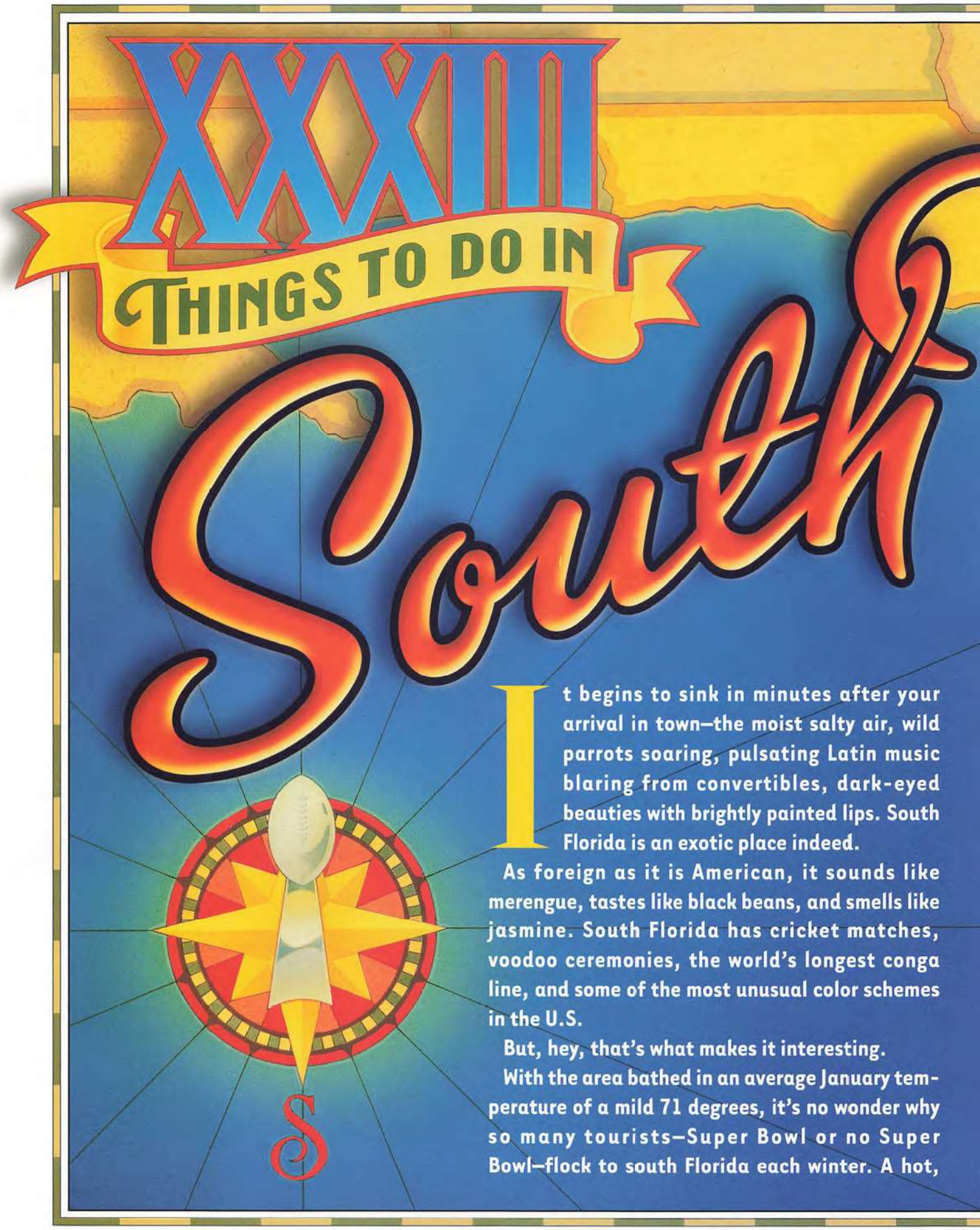
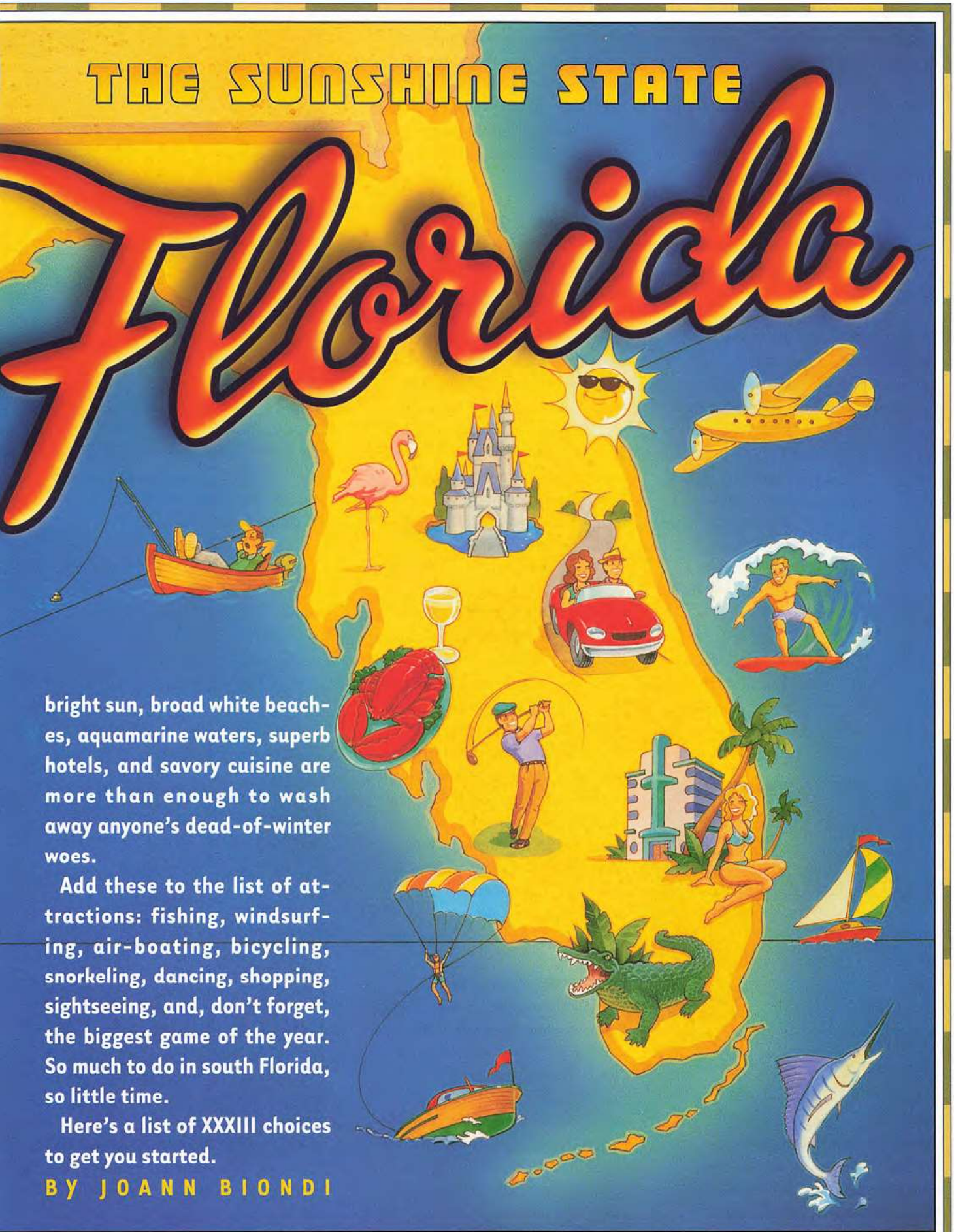


It begins to sink in minutes after your arrival in town—the moist salty air, wild parrots soaring, pulsating Latin music blaring from convertibles, dark-eyed beauties with brightly painted lips. South Florida is an exotic place indeed.

As foreign as it is American, it sounds like merengue, tastes like black beans, and smells like jasmine. South Florida has cricket matches, voodoo ceremonies, the world's longest conga line, and some of the most unusual color schemes in the U.S.

But, hey, that's what makes it interesting.

With the area bathed in an average January temperature of a mild 71 degrees, it's no wonder why so many tourists—Super Bowl or no Super Bowl—flock to south Florida each winter. A hot,



bright sun, broad white beaches, aquamarine waters, superb hotels, and savory cuisine are more than enough to wash away anyone's dead-of-winter woes.

Add these to the list of attractions: fishing, windsurfing, air-boating, bicycling, snorkeling, dancing, shopping, sightseeing, and, don't forget, the biggest game of the year. So much to do in south Florida, so little time.

Here's a list of XXXIII choices to get you started.

BY JOANN BIONDI

ILLUSTRATION BY ROGER BEERWORTH

1 ROLL WITH IT

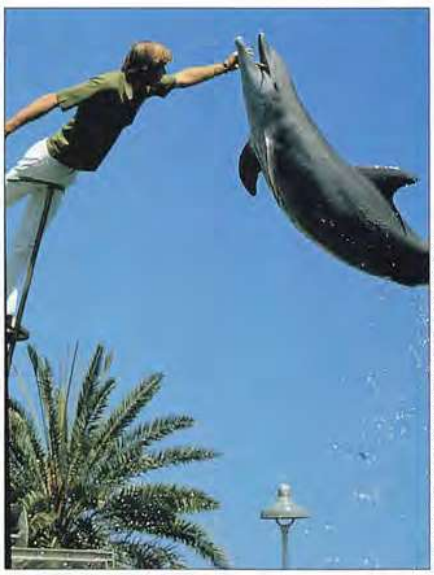
Tucked away in a storefront on Eighth Street in Little Havana, El Credito Cigar Factory is where the lost art of handmade cigars remains alive. Founded in Cuba in 1907, El Credito moved to Miami in the early 1960s, but the setting feels more like the 1940s. Visitors are welcome to watch dozens of craftsmen stretch, dry, chop, and roll tobacco leaves into the thick stogies that made the island famous.

2 RACE TO HIALEAH

Remember the opening scene from *Miami Vice*? Not the jiggling showgirls, but the flock of pink flamingos scurrying across a lawn. Well, that scene was filmed at Hialeah Park. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this thoroughbred racetrack is one of the most beautiful in the world, featuring old-time grandstands, lush tropical gardens, and the largest flamingo colony (population: 800) in North America.

3 PEACOCK STRUT

One of the oldest tourist attractions in south Florida, Parrot Jungle in southern Miami is a venerable institution in which hundreds of rare parrots fly free. Visitors can wander through exotic plants where peacocks strut their stuff. Check out the newly created rain forest exhibit. It's hard to escape without posing for a souvenir photo with a half-dozen macaws perched on your arms.



NATHAN OWEN TOMALIN/BRUCE COLEMAN/PNI

Dolphins, killer whales, and sea lions are a few of the exhibits at the Miami Seaquarium, a 35-acre, bay-front marine park.

4 WHO DO? VOODOO

Listed in the phone book under religious goods, botanicas (shops that sell religious paraphernalia) are living testimony that the Afro-Caribbean religions of Voodoo and Santeria are thriving in south Florida. Whether you want to cast a spell, or just look around, a visit to a botanica will introduce you to an array of exotic potions—aromatic roots, virility pills, powdered bulls' horns, blood of mice, floor polish to ward off evil spirits, and ready-made Voodoo dolls equipped with pins. Skepticism is discouraged when you enter.

5 MEET LOLITA

Weighing in at 8,000 pounds, Lolita the Killer Whale loves to swim on her back, wave her tail, and drench onlookers by doing belly flops around her pool. Lolita, the star attraction at the Miami Seaquarium, is just one of many reasons to visit this 35-acre bay-front marine park. Along with Salty the stage-ham sea lion, and dozens of bottle-nosed dolphins who perform a water ballet, the Seaquarium offers dozens of educational exhibits that feature manatees, stingrays, shark, and hundreds of species of tropical fish.

6 JIBE AND GLIDE

Soon after crossing the Rickenbacker Causeway that leads to Key Biscayne, a dancing rainbow of colors appears. This is Windsurfer Beach, and late January here means flat, shallow, waveless water that is ideal for beginning windsurfers. Equipment rentals and lessons are abundant and negotiable on the spot, and constant easterly breezes make for smooth sailing.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Some of the birds get up-close-and-personal at Parrot World, one of the oldest tourist attractions in south Florida.

7 GO DEEP

With its outstretched arms and somber face, the Christ of the Deep statue is an eerie sight to behold. Twenty feet under water, inside John Pennecamp Coral Reef State Park, the nine-foot bronze sculpture is a replica of the Christ of the Abyss statue off the coast

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

It's not only the fish who love the ocean. At Windsurfer Beach, novices and experts can test the waters.

of Genoa, Italy. A 90-minute drive south of Miami, near the legendary Bogie-and-Bacall town of Key Largo, Pennecamp is the most-visited state park in Florida. Whether viewed with scuba gear, snorkel, and mask, or glass-bottom boat, its underwater mosaic is nothing less than spectacular. Some 650 species of fish and delicate sea fingers wave as you pass by.

8 GET SPOOKED

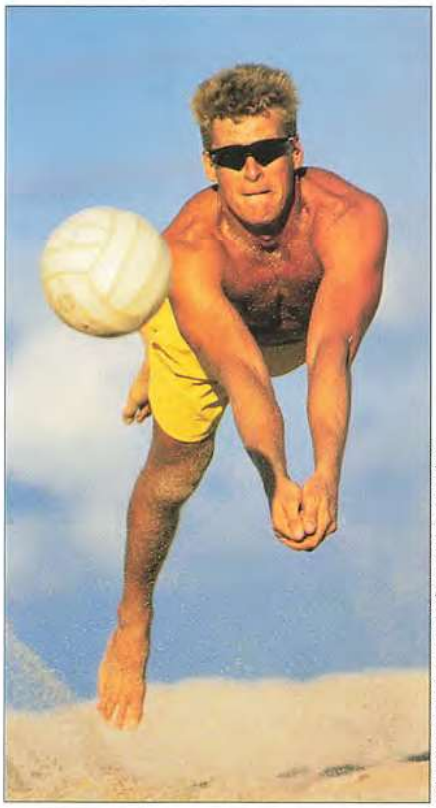
Built in 1926, the grand old Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables is the most magnificent hotel in south Florida. Not surprisingly, it has been a favorite resting spot for visiting presidents, royalty, literati, and glitterati. But that's only part of the Biltmore's history. During World War II, the hotel served as an army hospital for wounded and dying soldiers, and some say their spirits still roam the halls. Tourists are welcome to stop in and listen to the resident storyteller who recounts the ghost stories that are local legends.

9 NEW RIVERFRONT

The newest kid on the block in Fort Lauderdale is Las Olas Riverfront. Part of the downtown Historic District's recent revitalization, Riverfront is a sprawling entertainment complex on the bustling New River in the same spot where early Florida settlers once brought their harvests to load on northbound ships. Now you can wander amid outdoor plazas, cafes, restaurants, and galleries, listening to strolling minstrels.

10 SERVE, SET, SPIKE

If you like your volleyball fast and furious, the best place to take in a match is between Eighth and Tenth Streets on South Beach, right in the sand off Ocean Drive. From bronzed gods to *Baywatch* babes, the action here is quite a show. While visitors are welcome to join in, some of the regular players are rated "open class," which is just a notch below professional, so be prepared for some heavy hitting.



YELLOW DOG PRODUCTIONS/THE IMAGE BANK/PNI

The beach volleyball action on South Beach is some of the best you'll find this side of the professional tour.

CATHERINE KARNOW/WOODFIN CAMP & ASSOC/PNI

The grandeur of the magnificent Biltmore Hotel is matched only by the legendary tales of World War II spirits who inhabit it.

11 LOOK, A LIGHTHOUSE

Key Biscayne's Cape Florida Beach, inside Bill Baggs State Park, regularly makes the top 10 list of America's greatest beaches, and it's no wonder why. A dazzling blanket of fine white sand tufted with dunes and sea oats, it also has shimmering emerald waters with a gentle surf, and the historic Cape Florida Lighthouse, which guided arriving sailors in the early 1800s.

12 BACK TO OLD CUBA

In Miami's Little Havana, no one acknowledges that the 1959 Cuban Revolution took place. Cafe Nostalgia is where Cuban artists, writers, film makers, and musicians gather to reminisce about the good old days. Black-and-white films of 1950s Havana are ever present, Cuban memorabilia covers the walls, and the late-night jam sessions are so hot that Gloria Estefan has been known to camp out here for hours.

13 GROOVE IN GROVE

One of the oldest and most diverse neighborhoods in Miami, Coconut Grove at one time or another was a meeting place for artists, poets, boat captains, beatniks, hippies, and yuppies. Today, the Grove is a bustling urban village full of tropical ambience and outdoor cafes. At its center is CocoWalk, a Mediterranean-style plaza that is filled with shops and restaurants. Next door is Mayfair, another lively commercial hub.

14 JEWISH HISTORY

Housed in a restored 1936 Orthodox synagogue, in an area of Miami Beach once known for its brazen "No Jews Allowed" signs, the Sanford L. Ziff Jewish Museum is dedicated to explaining the 230-year history of Jews in Florida. Included in its permanent exhibit are antique menorahs, silver samovars and goblets, historic photos, immigration documents, and Judaic memorabilia.

15 INDIAN TERRITORY

Ah-tha-thi-ka, the Seminole Indian word for a place to remember, is indeed just that. About 40 miles west of Fort Lauderdale, inside the Big Cypress Reservation, Ah-tha-thi-ka is a museum dedicated to preserving the history, culture, and legacy of this native tribe. The Seminoles endured 300 years of struggles in Florida, and this museum sits on the very land that was confiscated from the tribe by the federal government 150 years ago. Among the items on display are patchwork clothing, buckskin leggings, historic photos and documents, chickee huts, and fishing and hunting gear.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

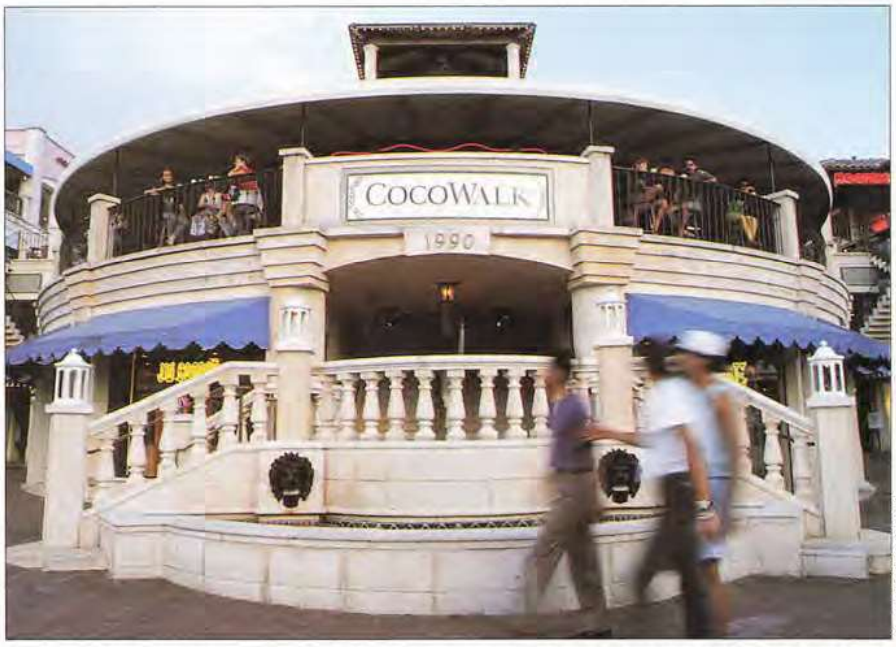
The majestic scenery of south Florida is not limited to the architecture: Models pose for the cameras from the first light of dawn.

16 PICTURE THIS

By 7 A.M., as the buttery sun paints a warm glow on the pink hotels that dot South Beach's Ocean Drive, long-legged fashion models are already hard at work—primping for the cameras, pouting their lips, tossing their hair in the air. Day or night, models and model wannabees are a permanent fixture of the local landscape, and if you can get a table at the popular News Cafe (it is open 24 hours), you'll have the perfect view for the head-turning, eye-popping, mouth-dropping parade. But remember to check your ego at the door.

17 TALK TO ANIMALS

The Miami Metrozoo is a cageless animal refuge that sprawls over 290 lushly landscaped acres. Because it specializes in tropical animals, there are no polar bears, but there are koalas, white Bengal tigers, leopards, and more than 100 other species living in natural island settings. An elevated monorail travels through the park, which also features elephant rides, a petting zoo, and an aviary.



AL MESSERSCHMIDT

South Florida has no shortage of outdoor cafes, restaurants, and shops. One place to find them is CocoWalk, a Mediterranean-style plaza at the heart of Miami's Coconut Grove.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Believe it or not, this museum once was a home. In the early 1900s, 10,000 workers helped build the Villa Vizcaya, a 70-room, Italian Renaissance-style palace in Coconut Grove.

18 TRANQUILITY

Directly across from the Port of Miami, the largest and busiest cruiseport in the world, the Japanese Garden is a Zen-like retreat amid the hustle and bustle of modern Miami. A tranquil, one-acre enclave of formal rock gardens and meandering foot bridges, this tiny jewel was given to the city in 1961 by the wealthy Japanese industrialist Kiyoshi Ichimura. At its center is a massive statue of Hotei, the Japanese god of prosperity.

19 TASTE THE SALSA

We're not talking tacos here, but the fiery, Latin, hip-shaking dance that is all the rage in Miami. Look for "Salsa Nights" advertised by many nightclubs, where you can sign up for intensive salsa lessons, or just sit back and watch. Inasmuch as salsa requires a partner, lessons are one of the best ways in Miami for singles to meet while also burning up a few calories.

20 THE RENAISSANCE

A few blocks from Madonna's Miami hideaway, Villa Vizcaya in Coconut Grove is a 70-room, Italian Renaissance-style palace that looks like the epitomè of establishment elegance. Built by the industrialist James Deering between 1914 and 1916, it required the work of 10,000 laborers—almost 10 percent of the area's population. Surrounded by 10 acres of formal gardens, the imposing mansion now is a museum filled with European art and antiques, Oriental carpets, and tapestries.

21 GO NATIVE

Some 25 miles west of downtown Miami, Florida's Miccosukee Indians have been wrestling with alligators for more than 150 years in the river of grass known as Everglades National Park. For an authentic tour of this 100-mile-long refuge, head out to the Tamiami Trail, hook up with a local Miccosukee guide, and set off on a flat-bottom, air-boat ride through dense mangrove swamps reminiscent of Florida's prehistoric past.

22 RIDE THE TRAILS

Shark Valley, the most accessible part of the Everglades, is best explored on bike. Its 15-mile looped trail, which ends at an observation tower overlooking the park, winds past dense mangroves and hardwood hammocks full of indigenous wildlife– herons, hawks, anhingas, osprey, deer, raccoons, rabbits, turtles, frogs, and numerous alligators, often found lounging in the sun. Rental bikes are available, along with much-needed refreshments.

23 CHURCH RHYTHMS

In the Miami neighborhood of Little Haiti, there is a church that offers an endearing encounter with this rich, Afro-Caribbean culture, along with the standard Catholic Mass. Every Sunday morning, the Church of Notre Dame hosts a glorious Creole-language service featuring Haitian music that blends African rhythms with French melodies, usually backed up by band of bongo drummers who add an earthiness to the otherwise ethereal service.

24 SMELL THE ROSES

One of the most acclaimed botanical research centers in the western hemisphere, Fairchild Tropical Garden also is a lush, 83-acre natural paradise where the sweet scent of ylang-ylang blossoms (the primary ingredient in Chanel No. 5 perfume) hangs heavy in the air. Wandering around this Coral Gables garden of Eden, you will encounter 11 lakes, 700 species of palms, and 5,000 species of rare plants, including African violets, Queen of

ANN PURCELL/WORDS & PICTURES/PNI

Everglades National Park is for the more adventurous. Take a tour of the 100-mile-long refuge in a flat-bottom air boat.

ANGELO CAVALLI/THE IMAGE BANK/PNI

From the beaches to the boulevards, Miami is an Art Deco lover's delight. The bold pastel colors and geometric designs are prevalent in the Art Deco District of Miami Beach, where you can take a walking tour sponsored by the Miami Design Preservation League.

ROCHELLE LEE/SOUTHERN STOCK/PNI

Sheeba vines, bird of paradise, cacti, bromeliads, lilies, and orchids.

25 GO AIRBORNE

Looking for different view of the city? Take off from Miami's Watson Island in a seaplane and head out for a romantic bird's eye tour. Cruising at an altitude of 1,000 feet, the 17-passenger Grumman Mallards glide over South Beach, downtown Miami, and then make a quick pass over the old Orange Bowl before splashing back in the water and returning to shore.

26 ART DECO DELIGHT

Sliding across the rainbow from erotic pink to lizard green, the Art Deco District in Miami Beach is the largest collection of Art Deco architecture in the world. These head-turning, fantasy structures are noted for their bold pastel colors, geometric designs, thick glass blocks, rounded corners, and porthole windows. If you want the scoop on their historic significance, along with a few juicy stories thrown in for fun, sign up for an Art Deco walking tour sponsored by the Miami Design Preservation League.

27 GO STARGAZING

Along with mind-bending laser light shows that feature blasting Baby Boomer music—Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, and The Beatles—the Miami Museum of Science and Space Transit Planetarium offers fun and informative exhibits for the young and old that explore the mysteries of the universe from mechanical dinosaurs to stargazing shows and cyberspace displays.

28 SMOKE SIGNALS

Cigars are "in," and nowhere more so than in Miami. Officially, Cuban cigars cannot be brought into the U.S., but

ROMILLY LOCKYER/THE IMAGE BANK/PNI

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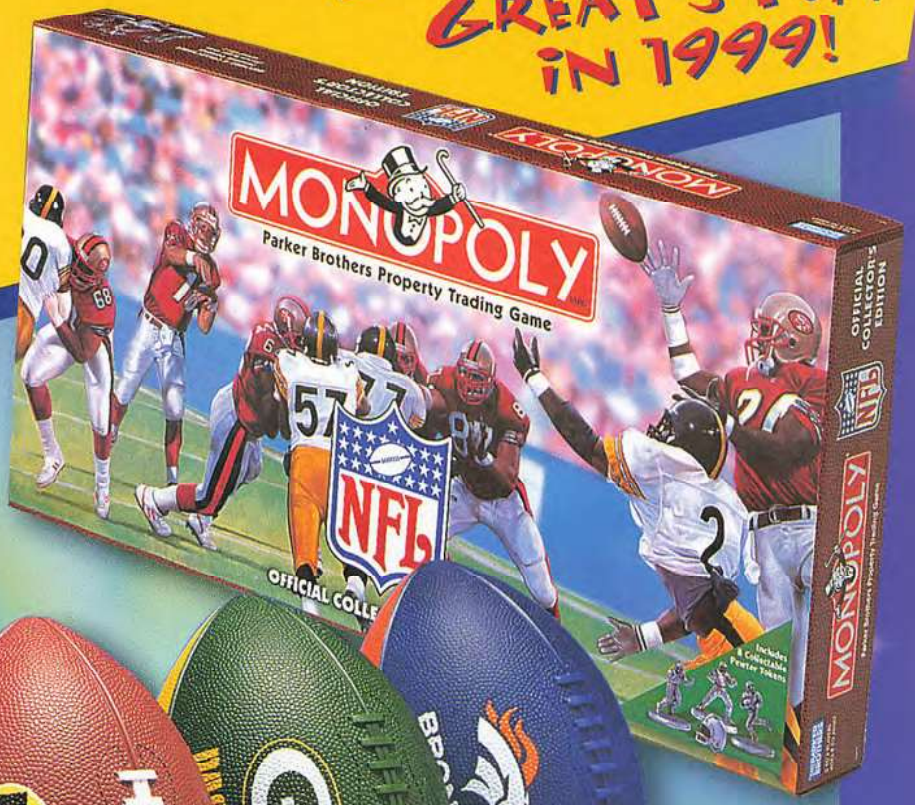

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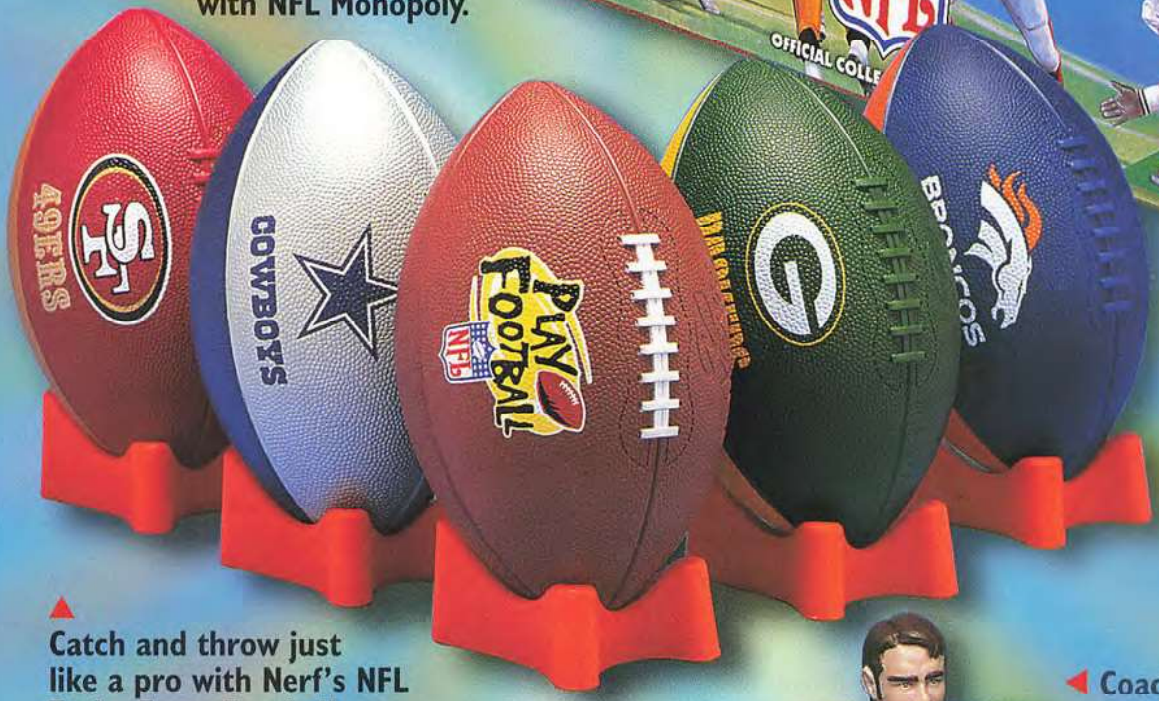

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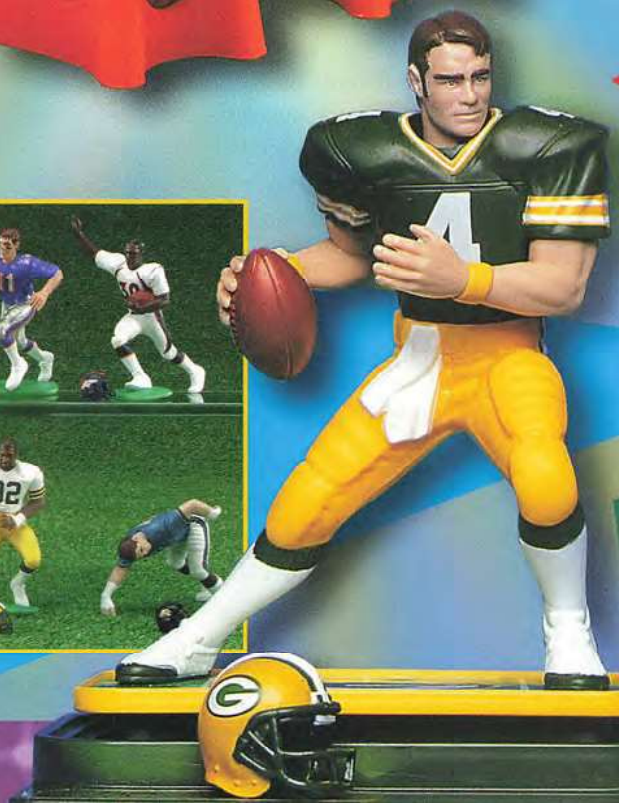

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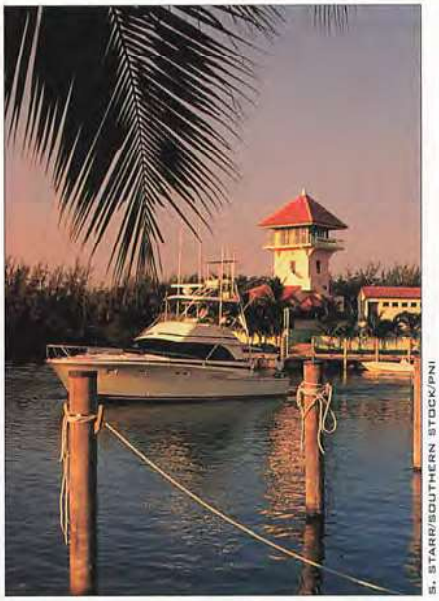


S. STARR/SOUTHERN STOCK/PNI

Water, water, everywhere: South Florida is a haven for boaters. And the waters of the Gulfstream are ideal for deep-sea fishing.

that doesn't mean they are hard to come by in south Florida. Check out the numerous listings for smokers' clubs, usually inside fine restaurants, and then settle in with a glass of cognac, mingle with the movers-and-shakers, and puff till your heart's content.

29 SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

At the northern tip of Miami Beach, Bal Harbour is world famous for its luxurious, 15-acre promenade known as the Bal Harbour Shops. Catering to both old money and nouveau-riche crowds, this sophisticated, open-air center has waterfalls, palm trees, and cascades of bougainvillea. And, of course, a stylish array of shops, including names such as Gucci, Cartier, Hermes, Tiffany, Prada, and Chanel.

30 DESI DEBUTED

An eclectic enclave of flamingo pink Mediterranean Revival buildings, Espanola Way in Miami Beach in the 1930s was where Cuban bandleader Desi Arnaz made his American debut. Originally designed to be an artists' colony, Espanola Way today has an arty atmosphere and now houses a cluster of funky galleries, boutiques, and cafes where the Cuban coffee still is strong enough to make Lucille Ball roll her big blue eyes.

31 DROP A LINE

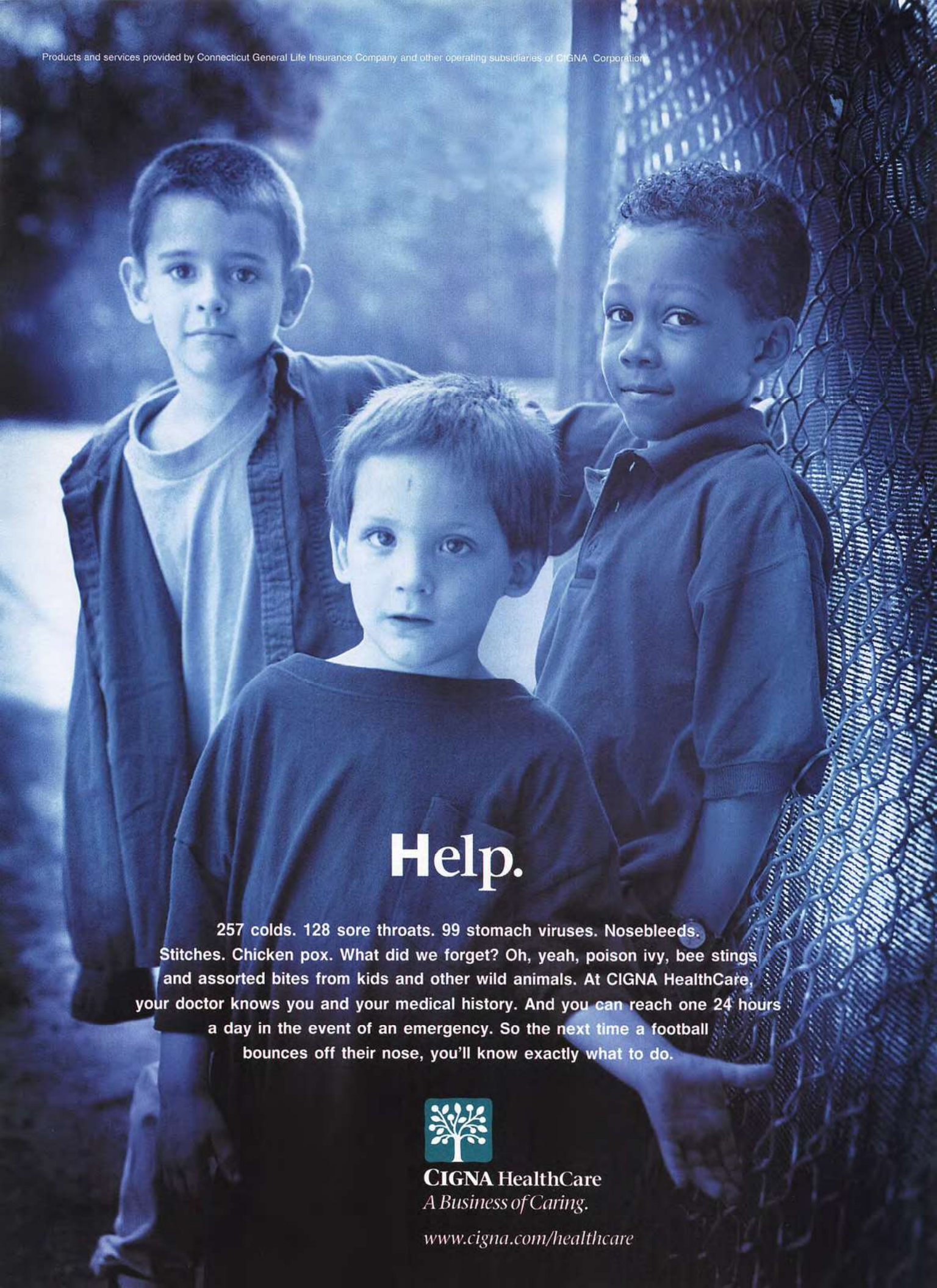
Not far from shore, the mighty Gulfstream beckons and the surrounding waters are ideal for deep-sea fishing. Countless marinas, from Miami to Fort Lauderdale, offer salt-water charters on boats rigged specifically for marlin, tarpon, bonefish, grouper, snapper, and pompano. Most operators provide bait, tackle, beer, and someone to remove your catch from the hook. Best of all, no fishing license is required.

32 STEP INTO 1900s

While Miami is only a little more than 100 years old, it does have an interesting past. In the heart of downtown, on a piazza reminiscent of an old Italian hill town, the Historical Museum of Southern Florida maintains a permanent exhibit that explains 10,000 years of south Florida history, including native Indian artifacts, a simulated ride on a 1920s trolley car, and documents from the Cuban Diaspora.

33 MEN IN TIGHTS

Edward Villella, once a tough New York City street kid, now is the artistic director of the Miami City Ballet. On South Beach's Lincoln Road, he often can be spotted getting his troupe into shape at the company's headquarters. For a glimpse of the action without having to pay for tickets, check out the floor-to-ceiling windows and watch as the lithe dancers warm up and work through their repertoire.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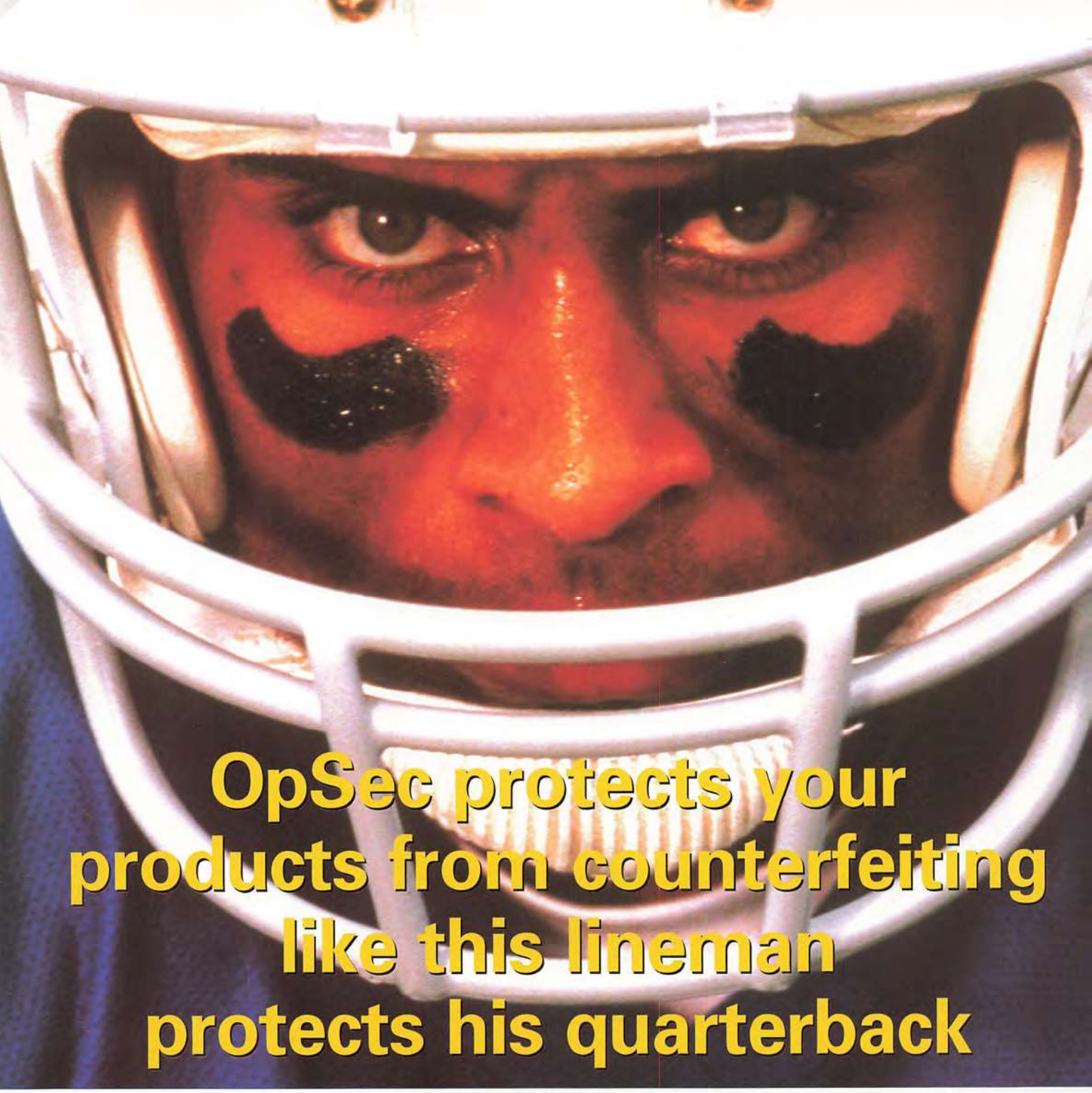

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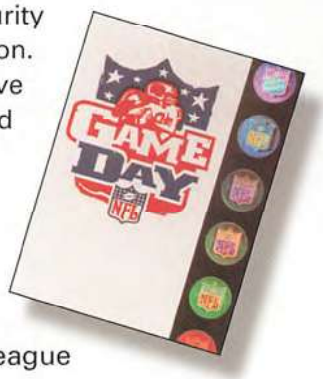

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Mad Manny

by james w. hall

Manny Shatner was in a fix. Ten minutes till game time and he couldn't get his helmet over his ears. Like his head had swollen in the week since he'd worn it last.

Manny shook out his arms and set his cleats on the fresh sod, hooked his fingers into the ear holes again and took a deep breath and yanked. But the helmet only budged an inch. And now his ears were twisted down and pressed so hard against the side of his head it felt like any second his brains would erupt from the top of his skull.

With a groan, he sat down in the recliner he'd set up in the visitor's end zone. The floor of his living room was covered with natural turf, lined with lime. He'd designed everything to scale to fit the twelve-by-twenty space. Seven-foot orange goal posts at each end of the room, and a TV set perched between the uprights of each one. A home-team TV, and one for the visitors. Manny changed ends at the end of each quarter.

To distract himself from the pain, Manny turned to the pregame show on the 40-inch TV at one end of the room. Next up were the Dolphins versus the Jets in New York. Winner got home-field advantage for the playoffs. Loser had to play the Patriots in the first round. The Dolphins hadn't beaten the Patriots for two years.

Manny Shatner went to all the Dolphins' home games. He always wore his aquamarine Lycra stretch suit, goofy orange sunglasses, and a rubber helmet shaped like Flipper. He had great seats on the 50-yard line, section 214, a 10-year license, hundred and twenty bucks a game. But the truth was, he did not actually use his seat much. He spent maybe half the game wandering up and down the aisles, rooting and exhorting. Pumping his arms like a pelican trying to take off.

He was known as Mad Manny the Dolphin Guy. He'd been on TV a lot. Local and national, been on *Monday Night Football* twice. He'd even been interviewed by one of the *Good Morning America* people a few years ago.

Sure, there were people who thought he was nuts. But Manny didn't mind. He was an entertainer. Made people smile. That was his mission in life, what kept him going.

But Manny didn't fly, hated taxis, hotel rooms, all of that. So he didn't go to the away games. Instead, he set up the simulated field in his living room. Grass and goal posts and each of the walls painted with scenes from Pro Player Stadium, detailed images of the stands packed with screaming fans. Manny did the painting. That was his occupation. He was a house painter. Worked for his landlord, Juan Fallad. He thought he'd done a damn good job on the painting in his living room, though he'd never shown it to anybody.

The helmet was killing him. Pinching his ears, scrambling his thoughts, probably cutting off the blood to some crucial part of his brain. He could pull the thing off and watch the game bareheaded. Nobody would ever know. But Manny had standards. And he was superstitious, too. If he didn't wear the rubber Flipper helmet and the Dolphins ended up losing, he'd never forgive himself.

So while the network went to commercial, the kickoff just three minutes away, Manny stood up and marched across the grass field to the side wall where he'd painted the north side of the stadium, his own section. He lowered his head, then tipped it up again to check the distance. One good head butt ought to do it.

He rushed the wall. Threw himself into the plaster. Locked his neck tight, and hit that wall with his whole 268 pounds. He felt the jolt, felt the helmet settle snugly into place. Then Manny saw the lights flicker, heard a long woosh, and he was gone.

"What happened to him?" Rafael stood in the doorway staring at the body in the aquamarine suit sprawled on the living room grass.

"He looks dead," Sheila whispered.

"What's with all this grass?"

Rafael gestured at the expanse, then looked over his shoulder at the door he had just jimmied.

"Guy's crazy. I told you."

Sheila was 19, slim and tall with candy-corn tinted hair. She was wearing pink leotards and an orange blouse, chrome wraparound sunglasses. A Miami girl. Flashy and out there.

A resident of Miami, James W. Hall has written 10 novels over the past decade, including *Body Language* (1998), *Red Sky at Night* (1997), and *Buzz Cut* (1996).

ILLUSTRATION BY GARY KELLEY

Rafael had on jeans and a T-shirt and flip-flops. He was 20 and worked at a car wash, pulling down almost what Sheila did as a roller-skating waitress at the Steak and Shake.

She lived two doors down from Manny Shatner in a duplex, and she'd peeked in Mad Manny's house a few times and seen the grass on his floor and the goal posts and the two TVs.

She and Rafael were just starting out in the burglary business. Five houses so far. Something they did on weekends. Like a hobby.

"Think we should call 911?" Rafael was stooped over the body, touching a finger to the gray rubber of Mad Manny's Flipper helmet.

"Call 911 and do what, tell the cops we just wandered into this place?"

"Guy's had a heart attack or something. He's dying."

"So give him mouth to mouth, Rafe. Get down and blow air into him."

Rafael was looking up at one of the TV sets. The Dolphins were losing 28-14 and punting from deep in their own territory.

"Those are nice televisions," he said. "And big."

Sheila smiled.

"You get busy with them," she said. "I'll look around, see if there's anything else."

"Somebody stole your season tickets?"

The young cop was standing in the middle of the living room taking Manny's statement. His older partner had kneeled down poking a finger in the turf.

Manny lifted his throbbing head from his hands.

"Yeah, they went in my drawer and took my tickets. All of them."

"This real grass?" the old cop said.

"Prescription Athletic Turf," Manny told him. "Same as they have at Pro Player."

The cops looked at each other. The young one looked serious. The old one grinned like an idiot.

From his headbutt, Manny had gotten the helmet on. But now he was worried it would never come off.

"Two televisions and season tickets to the Dolphins."

"That's right."

"You got an estimated value?"

Manny looked up at the young cop. The helmet was pinching his ears like crazy. They were still twisted under. When he finally got the helmet off he was going to look like Dumbo for the rest of his life.

"Estimated value on the tickets?" the cop said again.

Manny stared at him.

"Priceless," Manny said. "Incalculable."

Manny turned his head and saw Juan Fallad, his landlord and boss, standing in the open door. Fallad had never been in his house before, never seen the grass.

"Pack your stuff, Shatner," Juan Fallad said. "And be outta my house by sundown. You're bananas—a nut case. And don't bother coming into work tomorrow either, or the day after that."

Manny turned his head and saw Juan Fallad, his landlord and boss, standing in the open door. Fallad had never been in his house before, never seen the grass. "Pack your stuff, Shatner," Juan Fallad said. "And be outta my house by sundown. You're bananas— a nut case."

The woman in the ticket office at Pro Player listened to Manny's story about his stolen tickets.

"Happens every day of the week," she said. She handed him new tickets for his seat. Printed across each ticket was the word "Duplicate."

"And if someone tries to use my real tickets?"

"You inform security and they'll be escorted from the stadium."

"You don't arrest them?"

"It never sticks. They say they got the tickets from their cousin's next-door neighbor. No way to prove they actually stole them."

"Escort them from the stadium. That's all you do?"

The woman took another look at Manny's ears. Just like he'd feared, they were flared out from being bent double for so long. Dumbo the Dolphin Guy.

"That's all we can do," she said. She looked over his shoulder at the guy in line behind him.

"Well, then," Manny said. "I guess I'll have to take care of it myself."

"They'll arrest you," Rafael said.

"No, they won't." Sheila was putting the last touches on her makeup. Standing at the mirror in the bathroom of her duplex.

"You don't even like football."

"But these are great seats. Friend of mine who works in a sports bar says they're on the fifty-yard line, close to the field."

"This is nuts, you going to a football game. Sunday's our burglary day."

Sheila finished with the blue eye shadow and turned on Rafael. He was standing there in his underwear, watching her.

"You could scalp those tickets, Sheila, make a couple hundred bucks."

"Couple hundred bucks, huh? A week from now it's dribbled between our fingers, we got nothing to show for it."

"What're you gonna have to show from going to some football game?"

"I don't know," she said. "Ask me tonight."

Manny fondled the two-shot derringer inside his jacket pocket as he walked through the turnstile. It was almost as if he had to reassure himself that it still was there.

Quickly, he found the section where his seat was located.

Manny recognized her right away. Her name was Sheila. She lived down the block from him and hung out with some loser named Rafael. She was sitting in Manny's seat. Not cheering, not standing up when the Dolphins completed a pass. Not booing the hated Patriots.

Manny went about his super fan routines, roaming the aisles. He moved up and down the stairs blowing his kazoo, shaking the New England Patriot effigy doll, getting some cheers and some laughs. With less than two minutes left in the fourth quarter, Manny still hadn't confronted Sheila. Dolphins with the ball, down by seven. Whole season on the line.

Manny had known Sheila's parents, a couple from Ohio, hard workers. Died within six months of each other. Cancer, heart attack. Sheila dropped out of high school, lived in the house where she'd grown up. Then she started running with Rafael.

Manny watched her sitting there in his seat. Sheila never moved. Just sat there eating from a bag of peanuts and watching the game like she didn't understand what was going on.

Manny moved down the aisle. People yelled at him. Mad Manny the Dolphin Guy. Hey, Mad Manny. Strangle that Patriot. Manny turned around, held up the effigy and shook it hard.

He had the derringer in his right hand, hiding it behind the Patriot effigy.

Manny's seat was just two in from the aisle. With 15 seconds left, Marino hit his tight end in the end zone. Time out. Coach Johnson was going to go for the two-point conversion, the win, not the tie. Everybody in the stadium was standing.

If he was going to shoot her, now was the time.

Manny moved down the aisle. He had lost his house, his job, two expensive TVs.

The Dolphins were lined up for the two-point conversion.

Everyone in the stadium was screaming. Mad Manny slid down the aisle, crowded in behind Sheila.

The ball was snapped. Marino faked a handoff down the middle and bootlegged. Gimpy, slow, Marino loped around left end. Nothing anyone would have expected. Just one giant defensive end between him and the goal line.

For a half-second there was silence. Utter, absolute quiet. Then a roar.

Sheila was climbing up on Manny's seat. She pumped both arms up in the air as if she were about to start an aerobics routine. It didn't matter that she didn't know the rules or what was at stake. The game had swept her up.

As Marino dived for the goal line, Sheila and Manny both screamed. Their voices found a seam in the air, a narrow slit in the chaos of the moment, rising above all the other voices.

Sheila jumped. Marino hit the end zone.

Mad Manny the Dolphin Guy bowed his head, and put his gun away.

It was her seat now. For as long as she wanted it.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX GROSS

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There was a time, however briefly, when Deion Sanders wasn't Prime Time. Not so long ago, only a handful of college recruiters and hard-core high school football fans in Florida knew his name.

Sanders was an all-state football and basketball player at Fort Myers High School on the Gulf Coast of Florida. But it wasn't until 1986, in the eighth game of his sophomore season at Florida State University, that he became a celebrity.

The Seminoles were playing top-ranked Miami in a nationally televised game. Miami's offense

PUTTING THE 'FL' IN THE NFL

featured quarterback Vinny Testaverde, who would win the Heisman Trophy that year, and receivers Michael Irvin, Brett Perriman, and Brian Blades, each destined for NFL fame.

Sanders's main responsibility was Irvin, and, with Florida State leading 17-14 early in the second quarter, Miami decided to pick on the young cornerback.

Irvin ran an out-and-up pass route. Sanders bit on the out, and Irvin streaked down the sideline. But Sanders quickly gathered himself and caught up with the receiver. When Testaverde's pass came up short, Sanders leaped in front of Irvin to make the interception.

A star was born.

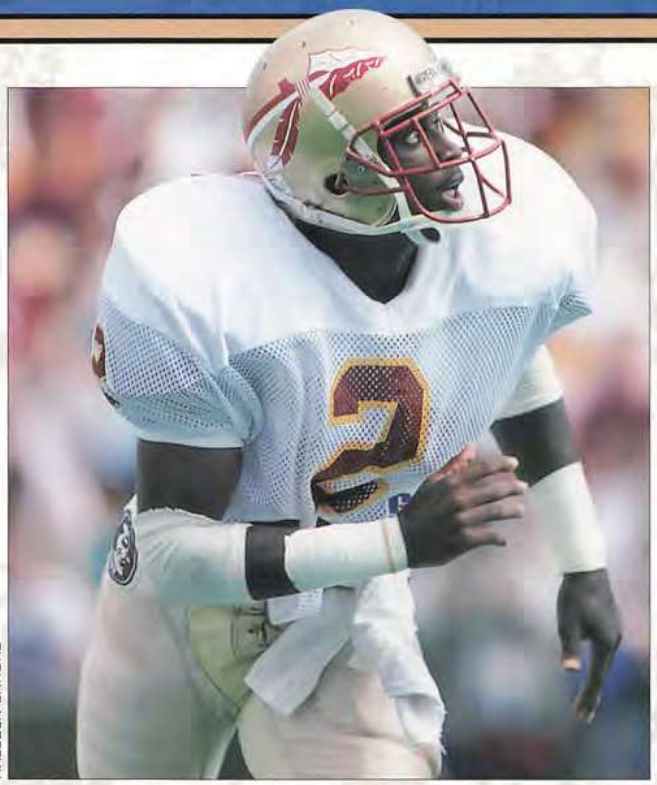
"I joke with Deion that I put him on the map," says Irvin, now his teammate on the Dallas Cowboys. "He made an incredible interception, and ever since that time he has been a star. It was such a big game."

It hardly mattered that Miami eventually won the game 41-23. Besides, Irvin got even with Sanders the following season.

"Deion had promised I would not catch a touch-

BY BRIAN PETERSON

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHARLIE PARK



MALCOLM EMMONS

DEION SANDERS stepped on center stage at Florida State and has been one of the NFL's most flamboyant and exciting players.

down pass in our 1987 game," Irvin says. "Florida State was leading 19-3 late in the game when I caught two touchdown passes that propelled us to a 26-25 victory. Those are great memories."

Sanders and Irvin, who combined have played on five winning Super Bowl teams and have been selected to 11 Pro Bowls, are not the only recent NFL success stories to emerge from college football programs in Florida.

From 1981-1998, a total of 59 players from Florida, Florida State, and Miami were first-round draft picks.

Miami has produced more first-round selections since 1983 (22) and more overall draft choices in the first three rounds since 1987 (42) than any other college in the nation. Florida has had 19 first-round draft picks since 1983, Florida State 17. Nine of the thirty first-round selections in 1997 and five in 1998 came from Florida college programs.

California and Texas schools generally have been the nation's top producers of NFL players, but in the nineties, Florida has kept pace.

In 1998, there were 111 players in the NFL produced by five Florida colleges. California colleges accounted for 140 players, but they came from 15 different schools. Texas produced 100 players from 17 schools.

Florida was not always the NFL football factory that it is today, but it long has produced a number of pro stars.

Miami's NFL alumni before 1980 included Ottis Anderson, Pete Banaszak, Chuck Foreman, Dennis Harrah, Ted Hendricks, Jim Otto, and Burgess Owens. Florida sent Wes Chandler, John James, Nat Moore, Steve Spurrier, and Jack Youngblood to the NFL. And Florida State had Fred Biletnikoff, Ron Sellers, and J.T. Thomas.

JAMES D. SMITH

Dolphins Hall of Fame guard Larry Little and Bengals running back Boobie Clark went to Bethune-Cookman in Daytona Beach, Florida, and Cowboys wide receiver Bob Hayes and Bears running back Willie Galimore came from Florida A&M.

Those were most of the Florida products before 1980. Since then, the numbers have changed. It is a bull market.

Florida, Florida State, and Miami did not accept African-American players until the 1960s, a vestige of segregation. Before then, most of the talented black high school athletes from Florida attended small, historically black colleges (Little), went out of state (Rams Hall of Fame defensive end Deacon Jones went to South Carolina State and Mississippi Vocational), or did not go to college.

Miami was the first major college in the deep South to sign an African-American player with the arrival of Ray Bellamy, a 6-foot 5-inch wide receiver in 1966.

Florida signed Tom Sullivan in 1968 and Foreman and Owens in 1969. In 1970, Thomas became the first African-American to letter at Florida State. Thomas, Pittsburgh's first draft choice in 1973, played in three Super Bowls.

"In the old days, we were segregated," Florida State head coach Bobby Bowden says. "Now that all has changed. We have a great mix of athletes from all races. We have a lot of people in the state and the ability to pick from all the good athletes."

"The biggest difference between the teams I played on at Florida and now is that African-American players can participate," says Florida head coach Steve Spurrier, a Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback for the Gators in 1966 and a 10-year NFL veteran. "Everything changed, and the Florida programs became better in 1969-1970 when African-Americans were allowed to play in the South."

With the arrival of Bowden at Florida State in 1976 and Howard Schnellenberger, who had been the Dolphins' offensive coordinator, at Miami in 1979, wide-open, pro-style offenses changed the landscape of Florida football. These offenses emphasized speed and better prepared players for careers in the NFL.

"There is no doubt that the pro-style offenses used by Florida, Florida State, and Miami have had a profound effect

"WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE, WE COULDN'T KEEP OUR KIDS HOME. WE COULDN'T EVEN GET THEM TO VISIT FLORIDA STATE ...BUT ALL THAT CHANGED WHEN WE STARTED WINNING."

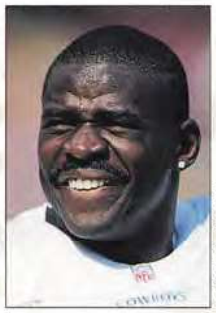
—Seminoles head coach Bobby Bowden

on drawing the best talent to those schools," says Cowboys wide receiver Ernie Mills, who played for the Gators. "When I got to Florida, I was a defensive back, but I moved to receiver. We did a lot of running because we had Emmitt Smith, but we also passed often. Coach Spurrier came in [1990] and opened up everything even more. If you're an offensive player in high school and see how Florida, Florida State, and Miami play, then naturally you want to go to one of those schools."

"I think the defenses and offenses the Florida schools run have a lot to do with the talent explosion," says Cowboys center Clay Shiver, a consensus first-team All-America at Florida State. "I was excited to play in a wide-open offense. I was able to do a number of things such as snap for the Shotgun and pass block."

Schnellenberger was followed at Miami by Jimmy Johnson (1984-88), Dennis Erickson (1989-1994), and Butch Davis (1995-current). Johnson and Erickson were offensive innovators, while Davis is a modern-day defensive specialist.

Johnson took his coaching philosophy from Miami to Dallas, where he led the Cowboys to victories in Super Bowls XXVII and XXVIII. Erickson went on to become coach of the Seattle Seahawks. Davis was an assistant under Johnson at the University of Miami and with the Dallas Cowboys before returning to Miami.



MITCHELL REIBEL

Charley Pell and Galen Hall directed Florida in the eighties before Spurrier brought his high-octane offensive schemes to Gainesville in 1990.

"There is no question that having a pro-style offense has helped us send more players to the NFL," Davis says. "It also has helped at Miami that almost every coach since the early eighties has had ties with the NFL.

"Because of that, we have continued to do things the way NFL teams do. The four-three defense we ran at Miami when I was an assistant under Jimmy Johnson, we took with us to Dallas. I think a lot of kids get excited about being recruited by Miami because they see it as an opportunity to play in a system that prepares them for the NFL."

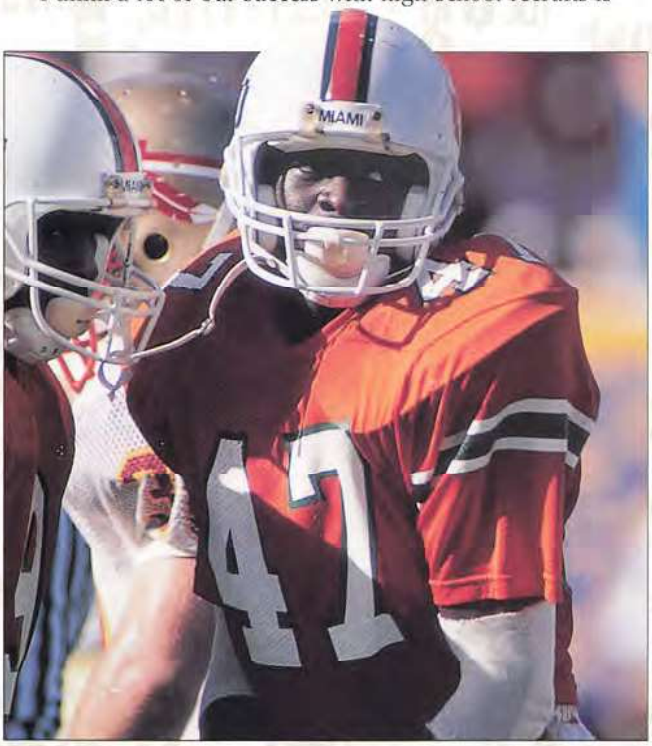
Before 1980, Florida, Florida State, and Miami never had finished among the top five in the writers' or coaches' season-ending college football polls. Florida State finished fifth in 1980, a precursor of the future.

Miami became the first Florida school to win a national title in 1983, thanks to a stunning 31-30 victory over Nebraska in the Orange Bowl. The Hurricanes followed that with national titles in 1987, 1989, and 1991. Florida State was national champion in 1993, and Florida won in 1996.

From 1990 to the end of the 1998 college football regular season, Florida State (97-12-1, including bowls and playoffs) had posted the best winning percentage (.886) in NCAA Division I. Nebraska (96-14-1, .869) was second, Florida (92-18-1, .833) was third, and Miami (82-23-0, .781) was seventh.

"When I first came here, we couldn't keep our kids at home," Bowden says. "We couldn't even get them to visit Florida State. They all went to Florida or Miami. We really had to fight a battle. But all that changed when we started winning.

"I think a lot of our success with high school recruits is



AL MESSERSCHMIDT

MICHAEL IRVIN'S star has burned brightly since the Dallas Cowboys made him their first-round draft choice in 1988.

MY FIRST GOAL [AT FLORIDA] WAS TO BECOME THE BEST TEAM IN THE STATE. I KNEW IF WE COULD DO THAT, THEN WE'D HAVE AN EXCELLENT CHANCE AT BEING THE BEST TEAM IN THE COUNTRY."

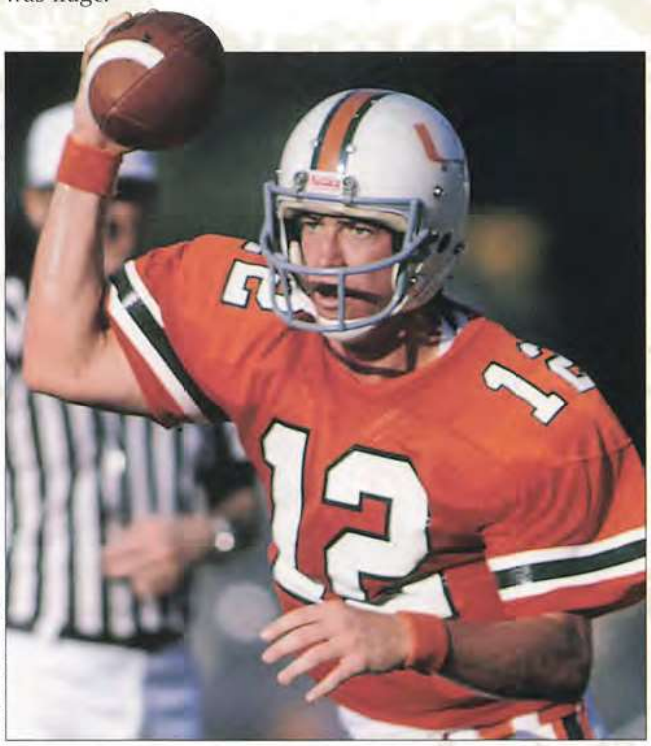
—Gators head coach Steve Spurrier

winning. Winning attracts kids, and the same held true for Florida and Miami. Kids think, 'Why should I go to Michigan, Ohio State, or Notre Dame when I can stay close to home and have a chance every year to play for a national title?'"

If football is king in Florida, intrastate rivalries have helped make it so.

Since 1986, there have been seven games featuring some combination of Florida, Florida State, and Miami in which one of the teams was ranked number one. Six times in the nineties, Florida colleges have been involved in games that featured the nation's two top-ranked teams. Florida won its national title by defeating top-ranked Florida State in the Sugar Bowl following the 1996 season.

"The things I remember most about my time at Miami were the intrastate matchups," Irvin says. "When we played Florida and Florida State, the state championship was just as big as the national championship to us. Being state champs was huge."



AL MESSERSCHMIDT

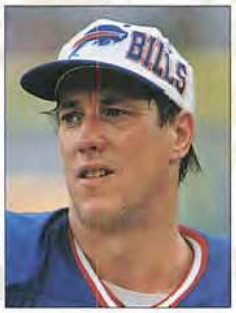
JIM KELLY, a Pennsylvania native who led the Bills to four Super Bowls, helped Miami earn the reputation as a "quarterback school."

"When I came to Florida in 1990 my first goal was to become the best team in the state," Spurrier says. "I knew if we could do that, then we'd have an excellent chance at becoming the best team in the country."

Entering the 1998 season, Florida State (17), Florida (12), and Miami (11) had a combined 40 bowl victories. Twenty-nine of those had come since 1980. From 1985-1994, Miami set an NCAA record by winning 58 consecutive games at home.

"I think high school players from Florida and around the country are drawn to the Florida schools because of the atmosphere," the Cowboys' Shiver says. "The people of Florida love football. The three programs are at the top of the rankings every year, and that just keeps the best kids coming. When you're from out of state, like I was [Shiver was from Georgia], having an opportunity to play in a town like Tallahassee, which is close to the beach and is football crazy, is a dream come true."

As college football has improved in Florida, so has the play of its high school programs. From 1988-1993, at least one Florida high school has finished in the top 10 of *USA Today's* Top 25, including 1988 national champion Pine Forest High School of Pensacola. In 1997, Carol City, Miami, ended the season fifth on *USA Today's* list. As of December 1, 1998, Northwestern High School of Miami was ranked fourth in the nation and Lakeland (Florida) High was twenty-third.



ALLEN KEE

"The high school coaches are doing such a good job, it's getting to where we can't keep all the great athletes in state," says Cowboys guard Nate Newton, who attended Florida A&M. "If you check all your major-college programs that are winning, they'll have some Florida players on their rosters."

"There was a period of time when option offenses dominated in Florida high schools," Davis says. "High schools used to rely just on a strong running attack and defense. Now we're seeing more teams on the high school level change to passing offenses. I believe that everything filters down from the top. Once the NFL started changing to more

pass-oriented offenses, then the college programs followed. Now the high schools are taking the lead from us."

PETER BROJILLET

Since 1982, when *USA Today* began naming high school offensive and defensive players of the year, six Floridians have been selected, including Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith (1986 offensive, Escambia High School, Pensacola) and Buccaneers linebacker Derrick Brooks (1990 defensive, Washington High School, Pensacola).

"I think the high school football talent in Florida is by far the best per capita of any state in the nation," Schnellenberger says.

"If you look at all the players that are in the NFL from the state of Florida, the one thing they have in common is how athletic they are," Mills says. "They are all quick and fast. I also think the coaching in high school football has improved. Combine athletic ability with better fundamentals and you get better players."

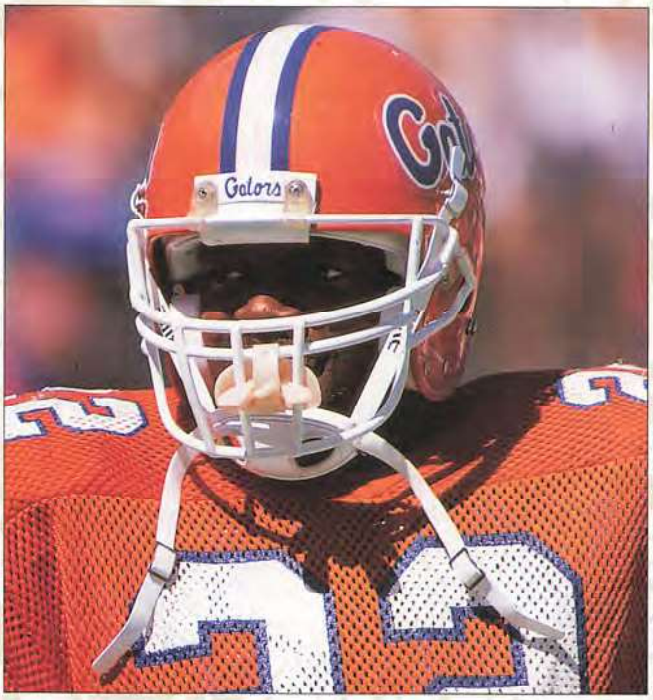
Florida also offers a seductive environment to prospective college athletes with a tropical climate and warm-water beaches surrounding nearly three-quarters of the state. The warm temperatures help foster the development of young players.

"Weather plays a big role," Newton says. "We can compete in football all year. Aside from California, most states can't do that. We have spring football. And if our athletes aren't playing football, they are playing other sports such as track, soccer, and basketball that improve their overall athletic abilities. We can practice more in Florida, so we can understand the game better at earlier ages."

From the standpoint of sheer numbers, Florida has a lot of football prospects. From 1950-1990, Florida grew from the twentieth most-populated state in the nation to the fourth. The state's 1997 population (14.7 million) reflected an increase of nearly 120 percent in 27 years.

The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that Florida's population will rank third in the nation by the year 2025.

"I think the competition level at Florida colleges will stay high because of the immediate access to so many good players within the state," Davis says. "In-state talent always has been the lifeblood of our programs. Seventy-five percent of our kids are from in state. And as academics continue to improve in Florida high schools, there will be a growing number of kids who will qualify for NCAA Division I scholarships."



AL KOOISTRA

EMMITT SMITH earned most-valuable-player honors in Super Bowl XXVIII and is the NFL's all-time leader in rushing touchdowns.

"I think the biggest reason Florida produces so many quality players is because there is so much emphasis placed on the game here," Spurrier says. "Our fans are football crazy. Florida definitely is a football state."

Television has played a key role in helping Florida colleges gain national recognition.

For example, Florida State has averaged more than four network television appearances per year in Bowden's 22 seasons as head coach. In the past 10 years, the average has been eight games per season.

"Television made a big impact on my decision to attend Florida," Mills says. "My cousin went to Florida, and watching him every Saturday on national television increased my desire to follow in his footsteps. It was exciting to see Florida play big games against Florida State, Georgia, and Tennessee. Knowing that I would be playing in games on TV made my choice of college an easy one."

"Television exposure has played a key role in getting more notice for Florida players," Little says.

Average attendance for Florida, Florida State, and Miami games has surpassed 80,000 per game since the eighties. And the schools' followers are avid.

"At the University of Florida, games were just like NFL games," Smith says. "We got a lot of media coverage, almost as much as we get here in Dallas."

"It seems like everything revolves around Gator football at

Florida," Mills says. "The atmosphere is great there. I was treated just as good at Florida as I have been here in Dallas. From top to bottom, college programs in Florida are just like the pros."

When Florida players finally arrive in the NFL, they maintain a surprisingly close-knit network. They acknowledge and encourage each other during the season.

"The guys from Florida have a special kinship," Smith says. "No matter what Florida college a player is from, we all have a great deal of respect for them."

"When I see guys from Florida across the league, I try to encourage and recognize them," Newton says. "All of the Florida players on the Cowboys definitely have a special bond."

Each player has the strongest allegiance to his alma mater. When Florida meets Florida State or either one plays Miami, pleasantries are set aside.

After Florida defeated Florida State in 1995, Emmitt Smith did not waste any time filling Sanders's Cowboys locker with Florida paraphernalia.

"We wait each year to see who will get bragging rights," Smith says. "In 1995, I decked out his locker with Florida jerseys, helmets, and other stuff. I made him pose for pictures wearing the gear. We have a lot of fun with the rivalry, but we also take it seriously."

Before the Cowboys' 1996 divisional playoff game against Carolina, Shiver joined Smith and other Dallas offensive linemen to watch Florida and Florida State play for the national title in the Sugar Bowl.

"Emmitt had all the lineman over to his place," Shiver says. "We watched some of the game, but by halftime I had to leave. Watching FSU lose was just too difficult to take."

Florida colleges have produced not only a number of NFL players, but also some exceptional talents.

Florida, Florida State, and Miami have combined for 30 consensus All-Americas in the 1990s. By contrast, schools in Texas and California have had 16 apiece. Miami has produced 19 Pro Bowl players, Florida 8, and Florida State 6 since 1980.

Smith, Sanders, and Irvin all were first-round draft choices and all have had careers that could put them in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

And there is a long list of other Florida success stories.

Newton has played in three Super Bowls for the Cowboys and has been selected to five Pro Bowls. Quarterback Jim Kelly (Miami) led the Bills to four consecutive Super Bowls in an 11-year NFL career. Seattle Seahawks defensive tackle Cortez Kennedy (Miami) was named the NFL defensive player of the year in 1992. Arizona Cardinals tackle Lomas Brown (Florida) has been selected to seven Pro Bowls.

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Eddie Brown (Miami) was named the *Associated Press* NFL offensive rookie of the year in 1985. Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Warrick Dunn and Baltimore Ravens defensive end Peter Boulware, both Florida State products, were named *AP*'s offensive and defensive rookies of the year, in 1997.

Super Bowl alumni number 38 from Miami, 18 from Florida State, and 14 from Florida. The message is unmistakable. At least that's what Florida players say.

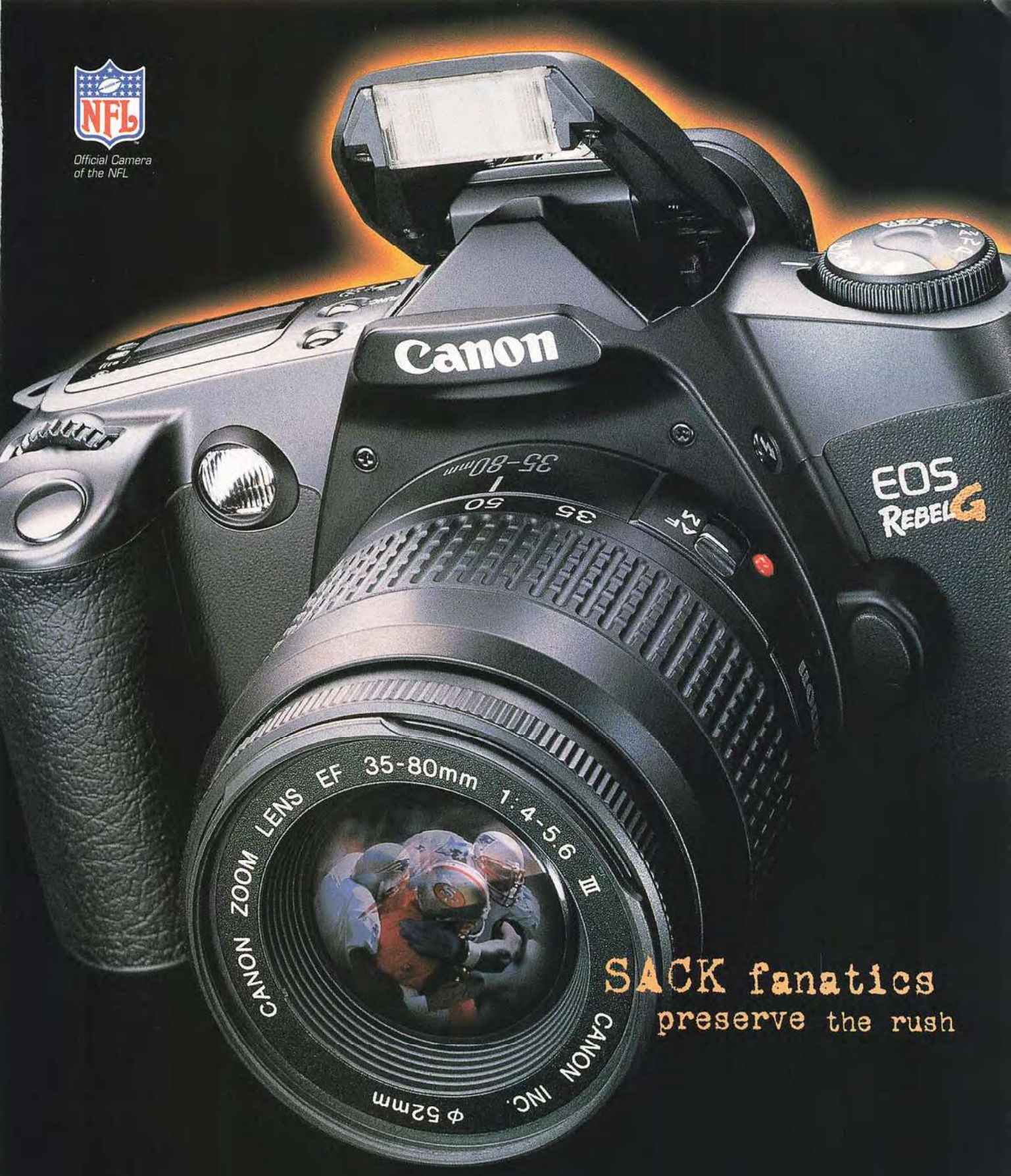
"Any high school player who wants to win goes to college in Florida," Irvin says. "If they want to win a national championship, all they have to do is head to, or stay in, the state of Florida.

"That even carries over to the NFL. Any NFL team that wants to win gets players from Florida colleges. Emmitt, Deion, and I joke all the time that all we have to do is get more players from Florida, and then there won't be any team that can stop us. In fact, it's not a joke. We really do mean it."

NUMBER ONE IN NUMBER-ONE DRAFT PICKS

Florida State leads the nation when it comes to producing first-round NFL draft choices over the last 10 years. Here are the top producers since 1989:

HOW THEY RANKED, FROM 1989-1998		NUMBER OF FIRST ROUND DRAFT PICKS
1	FLORIDA STATE	15
2	MIAMI (FLA.)	14
3	OHIO STATE	12
TIE	TENNESSEE	12
5	FLORIDA	11
TIE	NOTRE DAME	11
TIE	USC	11
8	COLORADO	9
TIE	NEBRASKA	9
10	MICHIGAN	8
TIE	PENN STATE	8
TIE	TEXAS A&M	8



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Too Little, Too Late

by jim murray

There's an old George M. Cohan song that goes *"Aitch-ay-dooble-are-eye-gee-ay-en spells 'Harrigan.' Proud of all of the Irish blood that's in me. Divil a man can say word agin me."*

Except for a change in spelling, that song could apply to Arthur J. Rooney, owner of the best damned football team in the universe.

Art Rooney is a man without an enemy. Friend of man, Irish to the core, a sucker for a handout, he has gone through life like a parish priest in the Bowery.

He made a million bucks, but never became lace-curtain Irish in his life. An amiable drinker, never a drunk, he was the one to help his friends home.

He's probably the only man in the Pittsburgh Steelers' organization today who feels sorry for the Minnesota Vikings. If he had his way, he'd probably trade L.C. Greenwood or Franco Harris to them tomorrow. He's done it all his life.

He almost seemed disappointed to win. Art Rooney is a man who would much rather lose himself than have his friends do it. After all, he's used to it.

The only place he has never lost is at the racetrack. Horses have never let him down. Plenty of humans have. He always forgave them.

"They think I won this team at Saratoga," he was saying the other day, after he had delayed his arrival at Super Bowl IX for several days because he didn't want to upstage the team. "I'll tell you fellows the truth on that. I did have a good day at Saratoga once, and the columnist, Bill Corum, was with me and betting with me. The next day, he wrote a piece about the killing we made. I was like the guy who broke the bank at Monte Carlo, and it was a good story. So the next day the Hearst papers assigned a man to follow me around. He did. And we lost quite a few races, too. But he kept writing that we didn't. 'I can't write about a loser,' he told me, 'and I like this assignment too much.'"

For Art Rooney, the Super Bowl championship is like so many things that happen to us in life—too late and too empty. Winning is a young man's game. Winning is not for men who remember Bullet Bill Dudley and Whizzer White and Johnny Blood. Winning is not for men who look at all those muscular young strangers and wonder where Fats Henry and Bronko Nagurski have gone. Winning is not nostalgic when all the winners are bulls young enough to be your great-grandchildren.

Winning is for people who can drink the champagne and stay up all night on Bourbon Street. Winning is not for people who have to go home and have a glass of warm milk and a good cry because things are not really the same any more.

Winning is beating George Halas or Wellington Mara or Curly Lambeau, not some Minneapolis corporation.

Winning was for the days when you showed up in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, and the promoter couldn't come up with a guarantee, so you didn't put your team on the field till he paid off in hot dogs or hogs. Winning was for the days when checks bounced, and you would pay a man like Mean Joe Greene $100 a game, not $100,000 a season.

"What does 'winning' mean to me?" a puzzled Art Rooney, an old man with cataracts and balloon glasses now, not the pompadoured dandy who broke the books at Saratoga so many years ago in the Great Depression, asked. "Well, I'll tell you. First, I feel sorry for guys like Well Mara and George Halas, my pals, who haven't won in a long time. We went through some hard times in this business. George Preston Marshall, he was a reformed horse player, he's gone now.

"I remember young Terry Bradshaw came into my office one day about something and I said, 'Terry, what would you do if the lights went out?' And he said, 'What?' and I said, 'What if they turned those television lights out? Would you play for $15,000 a season like Whizzer White? Would you if we had to put the team back in the bus and mark out a football field someplace and pass the hat?'"

Bradshaw's answer was not recorded, but it's clear that Arthur J. Rooney was not looking at the 1975 Super Bowl game, which is Roman numerated, as Red Smith says, like Popes. He was looking at Wrigley Field in 1933 or the Polo Grounds in 1935. He was wondering where Ken Strong went, or Tuffy Leemans or Beattie Feathers.

Jimmy Cagney, the great actor, was once asked to describe the Irish in one word, and he came up with "malice."

ILLUSTRATION BY GARY KELLEY

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Jim Murray entertained readers of the *Los Angeles Times* sports pages for 37 years before his death last year at 78.

But Art Rooney doesn't have a malicious bone in his body. He is as softhearted as a monsignor in a leper colony. He flew in for the game everybody who ever came to him for a loan or a job. He flew in his home-field ground crew, the people who serve drinks.

It's a good thing Minnesota didn't ask for the game back. Art Rooney would have given it to them.

It took 42 years, but the hundred-to-one shot finally came in. If it hadn't, Art Rooney would have shrugged, lit a cigar, and gone and bought somebody a drink. He's bet on lots of also-rans before. He's never been known to say "if we had only...." or to fault the writer, the officials, or the team, or the fates. His team was lousy because he could never bear to fire anybody. He once fired Johnny Blood, and Johnny Blood stayed on anyway.

For Art Rooney, it's too little and too late. He was the least-excited man in New Orleans. A scoreless tie would have suited him fine. He wasn't looking at coach Chuck Noll out there. He was looking at Jock Sutherland in 1947. 1947 was the very good year, not 1975. Like finally getting a girl you brought flowers to 35 years ago.

But, for Art Rooney, he'll go through the motions. He hates to hurt people's feelings. His philosophy is very simple: "I'll tell you," he said, flicking an unlit cigar the other day, "if you don't like people, you get the worst of it." *(Super Bowl IX)*

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THE MOUSE ROARED

First of all, are you sitting down?

Be sure who you tell this to or they'll think you've been drinking.

On Sunday afternoon, the canary ate the cat. The mailman bit the police dog. The minnow chased the shark out of its waters. The missionaries swallowed the cannibals. The rowboat rammed the battleship. The mouse roared, and the lion jumped up on a chair and began to scream for help.

The first thing that's going to surprise you about the Super Bowl is the closeness of the score. But, hang on to your hat. If you think *that's* a shocker, wait till I get to the punch line.

The—come closer and let me whisper this—*New York Jets* are the Super Champions of football! Cross my heart! That funny little team from that funny little league they left on pro football's doorstep a few years back. You know the one—the team whose checks bounced and so did their quarterbacks.

They said (Norman Van Brocklin did) that Broadway Joe would be playing in his first professional game in the Super Bowl. Well, he likes it better than that game they play over in that other league. He got beat three times in that league.

They said the Jets were the third-best team in their own league. If so, it's a good thing they didn't send the best. Everybody would have switched over to *Heidi. (Super Bowl III)*

LOMBARDI SAID, 'HO, HO, HO!'

No, Virginia, there is no Santa Claus. They pulled his whiskers off at the Coliseum Sunday and it turned out to be Vince Lombardi saying "Ho, ho, ho!"

Sorry, kids, fairy tales don't come true, after all. Sleeping Beauty was really dead. Hansel and Gretel never did get out of the oven. The giant ate Jack *and* the beanstalk.

St. George got eaten by the dragon. The guys in the black hats got clean away with the cattle rustle.

Little Red Riding Hood didn't notice Grandma's ears 'til too late, and she found out her teeth were too big the hard way. Goldilocks is just a big lie. The Easter Bunny doesn't really bring all those jelly beans. They get them at Thrifty Drug.

All of which is my way of telling you the clock struck midnight for the American Football League Sunday. Brute strength conquered in the end again. They played for money and them that has, got. *(Super Bowl I)*

LOSERS LOSE

Well, I guess it's safe to throw away your Stassen buttons. And burn your Confederate money. Losers lose.

The Minnesota Vikings lost a Super Bowl game Sunday. And the sun rises in the East and two and two make four and Elizabeth Taylor gets married.

One more of these and the AFC gets the Minnesota Vikings stuffed and put on their wall in the den.

Minnesota showed a lot of guts showing up. Next time, they get to mail the loss in.

The NFC should keep an understudy standing in the wings when the Vikings go into their act. If an act like theirs played the Palace, they'd get pelted with tomatoes.

If they're going to play it for comedy, shouldn't they come out in baggy pants with a seltzer bottle and Groucho Marx mustaches? If I want to laugh, I'll turn on Don Rickles. In fact, the Minnesota teams should sell the routine to the Marx Brothers. Their defensive line is funnier than Chaplin.

The knock against the Vikings' Fran Tarkenton is that he-can't-throw-the-long-one but he threw a 75-yard touchdown pass in this game. Unfortunately, it was to Oakland. *(Super Bowl XI)*

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ILLUSTRATION BY AMY NING

RAMBLING WITH JOHN MADDEN

AN ENDURING NFL LEGEND TALKS ABOUT HIS LIFE IN FOOTBALL

Football coach, product pitchman, NFL game analyst—John Madden is the face and the voice of America's obsession with sports. He remains larger than life, an affable grizzly bear who can jabber about the sweat marks on the pants of the Dallas Cowboys' offensive linemen, while almost offhandedly deconstructing a complex game plan for the FOX network's home viewers.

He is 62 years old, and he can't remember a time when sports were not an important part of his life. He grew up in Daly City, California, just south of San Francisco, and one of his best friends is John Robinson, who later would coach the Los Angeles Rams. Madden attended Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, where he starred as a football lineman and a baseball catcher. After his junior year, the Philadelphia Eagles drafted him as a "future" in the twenty-first round. He joined the team in 1959, but a knee injury soon ended his career.

We cornered Madden during the 1998 season and baited him—it wasn't hard—into a wandering discourse on life, football, and the pursuit of hoopla.

ON LESSONS LEARNED AT 49ERS GAMES BY FUTURE NFL COACHES:

We'd just sneak in. We didn't have any money. We couldn't buy a ticket, so we learned from the old San Francisco Seals, the triple-A baseball team, that the way to sneak in was just to get there early—earlier than early. Just say you were working or something, and then you'd be in the game. So John Robinson and I would go to the game.

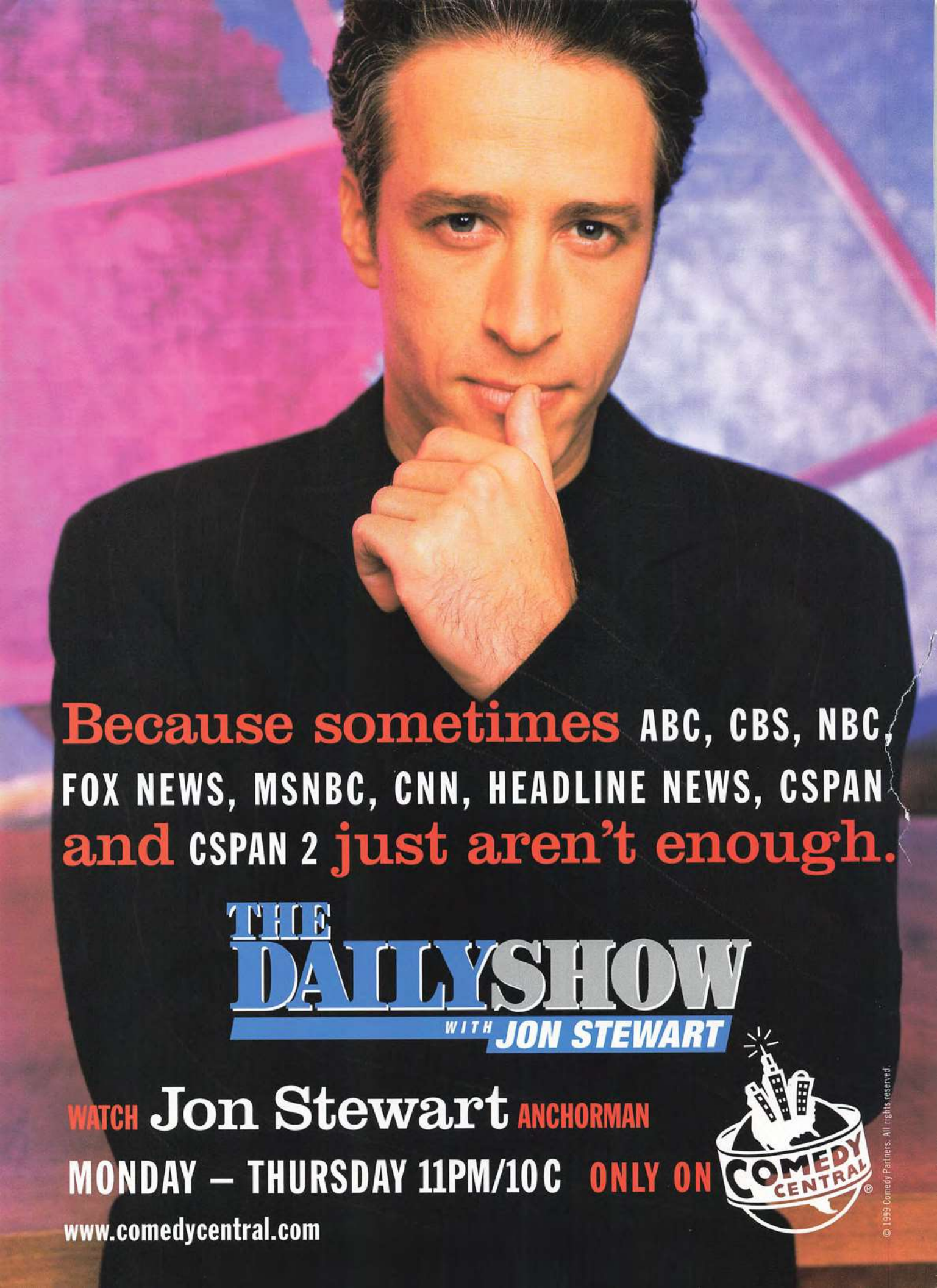
ON THE PROBLEM WITH BEING A LAWYER:

When I first started out in college, I was gonna be a lawyer. I lived in Redwood City when I was in college, and I had a summer job at Bethlehem Steel. I worked nights. So during the daytime I used to go to the courthouse and I'd watch all the court cases. I loved to do that. That was my entertainment. I thought I wanted to be a lawyer. But after I was there a couple years, I thought I was just kidding myself. I mean, I wouldn't want to wear a suit.

ON MEDICAL ADVANCES SINCE 1959:

I hurt my knee in training camp. It was one of those complete

WITH PHIL BARBER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"YOU NEVER SEE YOURSELF NOT PLAYING. IT'S LIKE TALKING TO SOMEONE WHO'S EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD ABOUT LIFE INSURANCE."

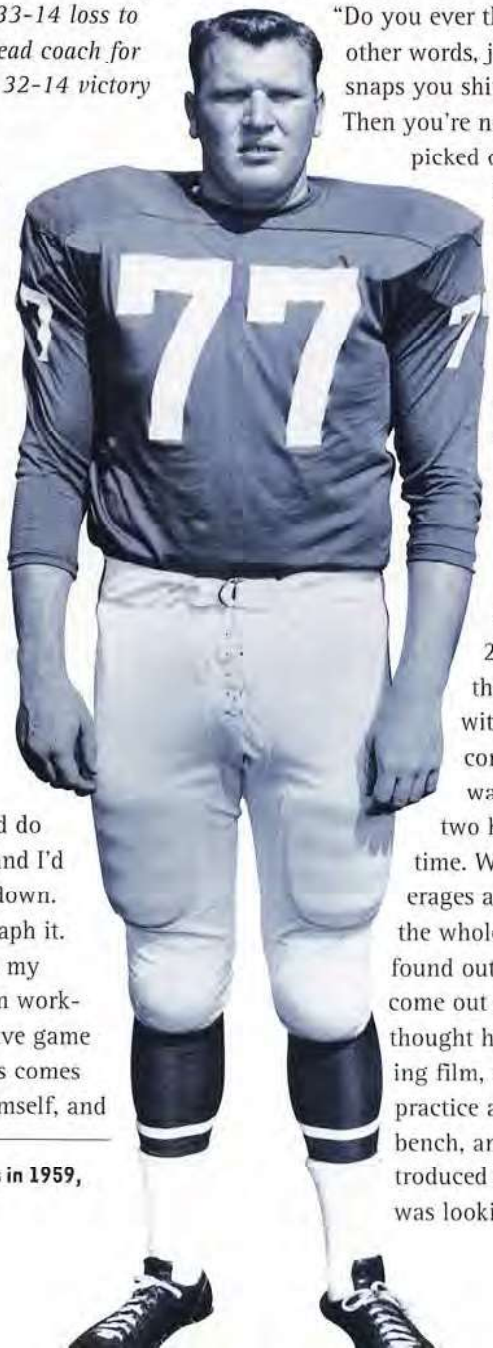
reconstructions that now, the guy would miss a season, but through rehab and surgery and everything would be able to play the next year. Mine was just the end.

ON THE IMPACT OF HIS INJURY: You never see yourself not playing. It's like talking to someone who's eighteen years old about life insurance.

ON HIS FIRST FOOTBALL EDUCATION: I stayed with [the Eagles] the whole year. I went to practice every day. That's where I really learned football because Norm Van Brocklin was the quarterback, and he was like the head coach on the field. Norm Van Brocklin was an amazingly bright guy. I used to have to come in for treatment before the regular players came in to get taped for practice. And when I'd get there, the only other player there was Norm Van Brocklin. He was watching film. It was just a locker room. It was just Franklin Field. So I'd just sit in the back and watch these game films as he was watching. After a while, I'd do it every day. Then he started talking to me. Then he told me to come up and sit by him. Pretty soon I quit getting treatment. I'd just go in and sit there and watch film, and he would talk to me about it. And it wasn't that I was anyone, or even that he was telling me anything. You know, you watch film and you say, "I can get this," or "When they're in that coverage, we can get the post." He was just kind of talking out loud, and I happened to be there.

Madden coached at the college level for seven years, including three seasons under Don Coryell at San Diego State. Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis, whom he still counts as one of his best friends, hired him as an assistant coach in 1967. Two years later, Davis made Madden, then 32, the youngest head coach in American Football League history. Madden retired after the 1978 season, still at the top of his game but suddenly without a passion for the job. His overall winning percentage of .731 (112-39-7) is third best among NFL coaches with 100 or more victories. He was a Raiders' assistant coach for Super Bowl II, a 33-14 loss to Green Bay, and head coach for Super Bowl XI, a 32-14 victory over Minnesota.

ON HIS FIRST MEETING WITH AL DAVIS: He was out scouting. We had some good players on our team [at San Diego State]. At that time, we had Haven Moses and some guys. I was sitting out on a bench. I used to go there to get away from the phones. I'd go sit on the bench and I would do game plan stuff, and I'd write everything down. Then I'd mimeograph it. Then I'd give it to my linebackers. So I'm working on the defensive game plan, and Al Davis comes out, introduces himself, and sits next to me on the bench. So, he says, "What are you doing?" So I tell him, "Well, this is the thing. They use the split-T, and they use big gaps, so what I'm gonna do is, you know, hit the gaps, get penetration...." I still remember the conversation. And he said, "Well, are you gonna line up in the gaps?" I said, "No, I'm gonna line up normal and we're gonna stunt to the gaps." He said, "Do you ever think of shifting?" In other words, just before the ball snaps you shift into the gaps. Then you're never gonna get picked off. I said, "No." But I started thinking, and I said, "But that's not a bad idea. Within what we're doing, we could do that." So we were just talking back and forth, and I kind of put it in—the quick shift. And we worked on it. Anyway, we beat North Dakota State 28-7. And I was thinking, Al Davis sat with me—and I was consumed with what I was doing—for maybe two hours. It was a long time. We talked about coverages and the split-T and the whole thing. Well, I found out later he didn't come out there by chance. I thought he had been watching film, was just waiting for practice and sitting on the bench, and saw me, and introduced himself. Well, he was looking for a coach.



JULES SCHICK

MADDEN THE PLAYER: He was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1959, but a training-camp injury ended his playing days.

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(Lineman)

(Kicker)

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ON SUPER BOWL II:

My first year with the Raiders was 1967, and we went to the Super Bowl. Of course, you didn't even know what the hell the Super Bowl was then. It wasn't even called the Super Bowl. We played the Green Bay Packers, and we went down and spent the week in Boca Raton. It was in Miami at the Orange Bowl, and standing across the field was Vince Lombardi, who was my idol. I was looking at Vince Lombardi and thinking, "Holy crap, I'm on the same field as Vince Lombardi."

ON THE HUNGER FOR SUPER BOWLS:

When you go there in 1967 and you don't get back in 10 years, the next time you get there you know two things: You're gonna enjoy it, and you're gonna win it. Just getting there doesn't mean a darn thing. And if it's gonna be the best time in your life, the most memorable occasion in your life, then you'd better act like it and enjoy it.

ON ONE OF HIS SUPER BOWL INNOVATIONS:

I was the first one to give players [at media day] their own tables with coffee and stuff. And I had their jersey numbers put on a big stem at the table so that the reporters knew who they were. All the players had to go to that thing, but how the hell would you know who a guy was? They'd probably know Ken Stabler. They'd know Fred Biletnikoff, but.... So a player could sit there, and you know, say: "Do you want some coffee?"

ON HOW HE BEAT MINNESOTA IN SUPER BOWL XI:

We had had a bad practice on Wednesday, and I really got upset with the players. And I really was still upset Thursday morning. It was supposed to rain, and I had a bunch of footballs because I never wanted my quarterback to throw a wet football. Anyway, to make a long story short, we passed the ball over a hundred times. We had individual and man-on-man, skeleton, seven-on-seven, team—and Kenny Stabler was perfect. The whole time, one ball hit the ground. That was a little high and went through Dave Casper's hands. Every other time he threw the ball it was complete. Every time. It was the best practice we ever had. Everyone had it down. There wasn't one mistake. So I remember walking off the field Thursday after that practice and walking through that gate. And I said to myself, "They got it. Now don't you do anything Friday or Saturday to screw it up." So I didn't.

ON GAME XI JITTERS:

I thought everybody was on the bus, and I told the driver to take off and the helicopter to leave us there and everything, and I left five players at the hotel. I left before I was supposed to. And I was trying to find them. They got there another way, and they thought they were late, and they were hiding from me. And I was hiding from them. So before the game we were playing hide and seek. One of them was [defensive lineman] John Matuszak.

ON RAY GUY'S PUNT THAT WAS BLOCKED BY THE VIKINGS:

Anytime you hear two thumps, that's bad. It went "Thump! Thump!"

ON THE MAGNITUDE OF THE SUPER BOWL:

One of the biggest gaps in the whole world is the gap between being the winning team and the losing team in the Super Bowl. You know, for two weeks these are the two best teams in football, and they get relatively equal billing. And then when one wins, that one goes way up here, and the other one goes back in the pile.

BARON WOLMAN

MADDEN THE COACH, 1976: He and Al Davis (right) formed a winning combination for the Raiders.

ON HOOPLA:

The thing that makes this game so great is the Super Bowl, and the hoopla surrounding it. If there was no interest in it, and it didn't deserve that kind of hoopla, then it wouldn't be that big. That was the word I used back in Super Bowl XI: "hoopla." Everything was "hoopla." You can't be upset with the thing that made the game what it is today, and it's the hoopla.

Madden's sound reputation as a coach

"ONE OF THE BIGGEST GAPS IN THE WHOLE WORLD IS THE GAP BETWEEN BEING THE WINNING TEAM AND THE LOSING TEAM IN THE SUPER BOWL."

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has been eclipsed by his renown as a broadcaster. He has worked in television for 20 years, the first 15 with CBS and the last five with FOX. Madden has won an unprecedented 11 Outstanding Sports Personality/Analyst Emmy Awards, plus two Sports Personality of the Year Awards (1985 and 1992) from the American Sportscasters Association. Pat Summerall has been his on-air partner for 18 seasons, and the two of them have worked together on six Super Bowls prior to XXXIII.

ON WHY HE GOT INTO BROADCASTING:
All my life I had a season, from the time I was a kid. And this is the toughest thing for people who get out of the game. You have a season, and your whole life revolves around your season. And then you don't have a season, and there's no difference between May and October. When I got into broadcasting, I still had a season.

ON PAT SUMMERALL (PART I):
I always say, "If you can't get along with Pat Summerall, you can't get along with anyone." He's like an old shoe or something. He's just comfortable to be around and easy. There's no maintenance with Pat Summerall.

ON PAT SUMMERALL (PART II):
I know that I don't have to be smooth because he's so smooth. I know that if I don't make sense and we get to another play, he'll make sense out of it by using two words. And you can't buy that. That's so damn important. As you can tell, I tend to ramble. And when you have the freedom to be yourself and ramble, and you know it's okay because the guy next to you knows how to handle your ramble, then you're not afraid to ramble. And if you ever get to the point where you're afraid to ramble, then you're afraid to be yourself. Then you become someone else, and then you're a phony.

ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FOX AND CBS:
Where you can be different is in the pregame show, the halftime show, the postgame, your weekly shows. Once you're covering the game, if they kick the ball off you'd better be in the kick-

MADDEN'S SUPER (BOWL) MEN

You've seen the 1998 All-Madden Team. You've probably seen a few all-time Super Bowl Teams. Well, here's the All-Time All-Madden All-Super Bowl Team. The man who made "thwap" a part of the American vocabulary applied his usual amorphous standards: If he liked the way a guy played, he's on the team.

To help narrow the field, Madden considered only retired players. And, in the interest of fairness, he excluded all members of the 1967 and 1976 Raiders squads, for whom he coached. Last, because he's "not a rules guy," the telestrator-wielding ex-coach added four FOX co-workers—Terry Bradshaw, Howie Long, Ronnie Lott, and Matt Millen—to the roster. (He did threaten to make Bradshaw play defensive tackle.) When Madden previously selected a similar team for FOX, the network excluded FOX employees from consideration. We also persuaded Madden to select two team captains. Madden's super men, listed alphabetically:

Herb Adderley, CB, Green Bay, Dallas (I, II, V, VI)
Mark Bavaro, TE, N.Y. Giants (XXI, XXV)
Mel Blount, CB, Pittsburgh (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Gary Clark, WR, Washington (XXII, XXVI)
Larry Csonka, RB, Miami (VI, VII, VIII)
Mike Curtis, LB, Baltimore (III, V)
Willie Davis, DE, Green Bay (I, II)
Mike Ditka, TE, Dallas (V, VI)
Joe Greene, DT, Pittsburgh (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Russ Grimm, G, Washington (XVII, XVIII, XXII, XXVI)
Jack Ham, LB, Pittsburgh (IX, X, XIII)
John Hannah, G, New England (XXV)
Mike Haynes, CB, L.A. Raiders (XVIII)
Joe Jacoby, T, Washington (XVII, XVIII, XXII, XXVI)
Jerry Kramer, G, Green Bay (I, II)
Jack Lambert, LB, Pittsburgh (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Willie Lanier, LB, Kansas City (IV)
Bob Lilly, DT, Dallas (V, VI)
Larry Little, G, Miami (VI, VII, VIII)
Howie Long, DE, L.A. Raiders (XVIII)
Ronnie Lott, DB, San Francisco (XVI, XIX, XXIII, XXIV)
John Mackey, TE, Baltimore (III, V)
Don Maynard, WR, N.Y. Jets (III)
Matt Millen, LB, Oakland/L.A. Raiders, San Francisco (XV, XVIII, XXIV)
Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco (XVI, XIX, XXIII, XXIV)
Anthony Muñoz, T, Cincinnati (XVI, XXIII)
Joe Namath, QB, N.Y. Jets (III)
Ray Nitschke, LB, Green Bay (I, II)
Alan Page, DT, Minnesota (IV, VIII, IX, XI)
Walter Payton, RB, Chicago (XX)
John Riggins, RB, Washington (XVII, XVIII)
Jake Scott, S, Miami (VI, VII, VIII)
Jackie Slater, T, L.A. Rams (XIV)
John Stallworth, WR, Pittsburgh (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Roger Staubach, QB, Dallas (VI, X, XII, XIII)
Lynn Swann, WR, Pittsburgh (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Lawrence Taylor, LB, N.Y. Giants (XXI, XXV)
Otis Taylor, WR, Kansas City (I, IV)
Paul Warfield, WR, Miami (VI, VII, VIII)
Mike Webster, C, Pittsburgh (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Randy White, DT, Dallas (X, XII, XIII)
Willie Wood, S, Green Bay (I, II)
Jack Youngblood, DE, L.A. Rams (XIV)

OFFENSIVE CAPTAIN: JOE MONTANA

"I'd want Joe Montana to lead the offense," Madden says. "Most people, the tighter the game, the tighter they get. But Montana, the bigger the game, the cooler he got. He did the same thing everybody else did, except he did it better and he made it look easier."

DEFENSIVE CAPTAIN: LAWRENCE TAYLOR

"When you needed a big defensive play, he was the guy," Madden says. "He was the most dominating defensive player I've ever seen. If there ever was a player who could win the game all by himself on defense, it was Lawrence Taylor."

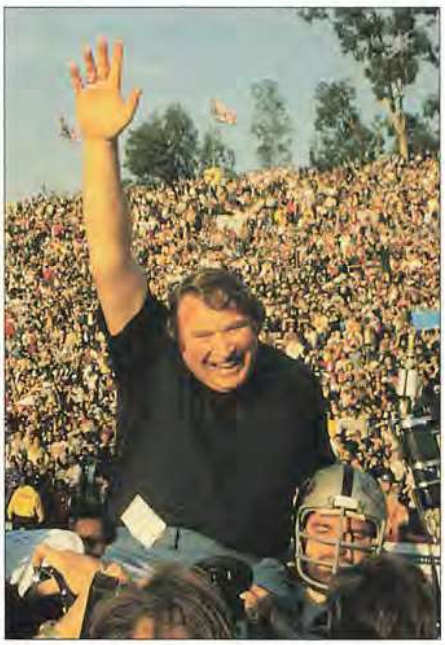
off. If the quarterback goes back to pass you'd better be on him, and if he hits the wide receiver you'd better have that. You have to cover the game. You can't be going off and have the quarterback go back, and you say, "Oh, look at *The Simpsons*."

ON PREPARATION:

When I prepare, I prepare all week, every day. It's reading the clips, it's watching television tapes, it's talking to people on the phone, it's talking to players after practice and watching practice, it's watching coaches' tape, it's talking to coaches—you know, the whole thing. And then you kind of put it all together, and that becomes what you take in there. And you don't know which part is the most important part, but you don't wanna miss any of it.

ON TALKING TO FOOTBALL PLAYERS:

In all the time that I've done this, I've never had a bad experience. There's none where I'll say, "Geez, I really don't enjoy it." Because I enjoy 'em all, and for different reasons. Sometimes a guy gives you a little insight into something personal. Like [in Detroit earlier this year], I never even threw it in, but Johnnie Morton showed me a tattoo he had on his back. He has a sun. I mean, his whole back is a sun. So the sun's always shining on him.



TONY TOMSIC

MADDEN THE WINNER: He had a 112-39-7 record and a victory in Super Bowl XI before retiring from coaching in 1978.

ON STEPPING UP:

I've always worried about people that use the term "step up." You know, "We've gotta step up this week." Well, what the hell did you do last week? What are you stepping up from?

Madden gets claustrophobic in airplane cabins. Rather than flying, he travels the highways on the Madden Cruiser, a 45-foot bus customized with a full kitchen, a living area that seats 10, a master bedroom, two bathrooms, an office with three phones and FAX lines, three televisions, and a tracking satellite dish. He lives in Pleasanton, California, but uses two other sites—an apartment in New York and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Chicago—as hubs during the football season. It's safe to say he enjoys this life.

ON HIS LAST PLANE RIDE:

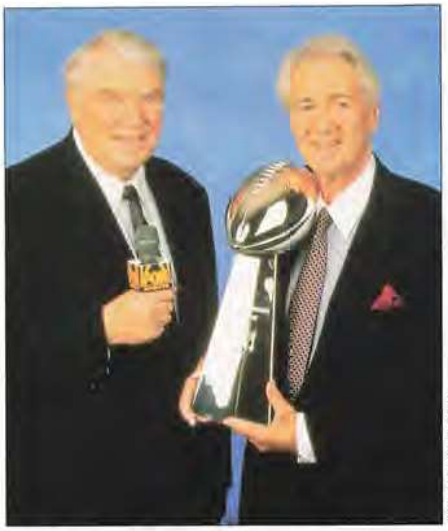
It was the Sunday after Thanksgiving, 1979, coming back from Tampa. I was going to San Francisco, and we had to change planes in Houston. We got on, and the flight attendant closed the door. And when she closed the door the feeling came over me. We hadn't even taxied. I said I could make an ass out of myself and go running off the plane, or I could gut it out to Houston. I decided I'd gut it out to Houston, but when I'd get off, if I lived through it—because when you're having these you think you're gonna die—I'll never get on another airplane as long as I live. So I got to Houston, got off, and took a train home. I've never been on another airplane.

ON 24 HOURS ABOARD THE MADDEN CRUISER:

I don't do that much different if I'm on the bus than I would do if I were home. Like every week I have nine hours of tapes to watch. I mean, that's nine hours of a bus ride right there. Say you sleep for another nine hours. There's eighteen hours. And you eat and you talk on the phone, and there's a day.

ON THE PEOPLE HE MEETS:

On the road I like to go into little towns. I like to talk to people. I'd rather talk to them about what they do than what I do. Like, farmers intrigue me—how you



AARON RAPOPORT

MADDEN THE ANNOUNCER: He says that Pat Summerall (right) makes his broadcasting job easier.

can live by the crop. Sometimes you'll see a farmhouse, and you'll drive fifty to a hundred miles and not see another house, and think, "How can those people live like that?" And then you meet them. And if you say, "Could you ever go to New York?" New York would scare the hell out of 'em. Then you talk to someone in New York: "Could you ever live out in the middle of the country?" That would scare the hell out of *them*. One person's fear is another person's comfort.

ON HIS FAVORITE NFL STADIUM:

I've said this: If they built a shrine to pro football, it ought to be Lambeau Field, Green Bay. I mean, the town owns the team. You drive down Lombardi Avenue, past the Don Hutson Center, into Lambeau Field. Just all the history, people cooking brats, dancing. You go in the stadium, it's grass, it's beautiful. The fans sit on benches. There's no luxury seats or anything. There's something that reminds you, this is the way it was, this is the way it's supposed to be—no dome, no artificial turf, no freeways coming in. It just kind of takes you back, like in a time capsule, and tells you, "Remember this."

ON NFL FOOTBALL:

It's a passion for me. It's my life. This is bigger than what I do; it's what I am. And it's what I'm always gonna do. I'll never not do this.

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SUPER BOWL XXXIII

Keep It Short

by shirley povich

Keep it short.

Three little words. But freighted with news that would shake a nation.

That was the message over the telegraph wire, dot-dash, to Pat O'Brien, the *Associated Press's* man in the football press box at Griffith Stadium. This was eight minutes after the opening kickoff in the Redskins-Philadelphia Eagles game.

The curt command from the downtown *AP* office in the *Washington Evening Star* left O'Brien much annoyed. He said to me, his press box neighbor, "For five years I've been covering these Redskin games and now some jerk is telling me how much to write."

To his operator, O'Brien said, "Ask 'em who's giving me these new orders."

This was on a certain December day in 1941, and enlightenment came speedily in a follow-up message to O'Brien:

"The [Japanese] have just kicked off. Pearl Harbor bombed. War now."

Moments later, an announcement was heard over the stadium's public address system: "Admiral W.H.O. Bland is asked to report to his office at once."

So what, people were always being paged by public address at Redskins games. No big deal. Anyway, how many folks in the stadium knew this particular admiral was chief of ordnance, U.S. Navy? Or that there was a sudden and very urgent need for the guns, ammunition, and other materiel of war in his command?

Nor was much heed, if any, paid to the next announcement:

"The resident commissioner of the Philippines, Mr. Joaquin Eilzade, is asked to report to his office."

In the stands, the Redskin fans were 27,102 innocents. They had a preoccupation, anyway, because Slingin' Sammy Baugh had the Redskins in a drive deep into Eagles territory in the so-far scoreless game.

They had not even a hint of a hint that their country had just been mugged into World War II, that the lives of thousands of U.S. soldiers and sailors had just been lost in a dastardly sneak attack in the Pacific.

For a few moments, it was our exclusive secret—Pat O'Brien's and his telegraph operator's and mine. And hard to grapple with the stupefying news.

Inevitably, shreds of the story began to ripple beyond the vicinity of the press box. But not all of the folks in the nearby seats would readily accept what they were hearing. The enormity of it invited disbelief.

In a nearby box seat I spotted the former managing editor of *The Washington Post*, my old boss, Norman Baxter, and was prompted to alert him to the grim news. He also was an immediate skeptic.

"Something's wrong," said Baxter, sharp on geography. "How could their bombers overlook our bases in the Philippines and fly all the way to Hawaii?"

On my return to the press box, I was greeted with a follow-up message to O'Brien from the *AP*: "And they've bombed the Philippines, too."

Now there was a new announcement over the horns: "Mr. J. Edgar Hoover is asked to report to his office."

Soon the announcements began to cascade: "General so-and-so, and general so-and-so are asked to report to their offices immediately." Being heard also were calls for other admirals, colonels, and Cabinet members. The crowd may have deduced there was some kind of an emergency, but a scarce few were in the know. To be remembered is that this was the era before fans took radios to the games.

But now, getting into the act, too, were the city's five daily newspapers. Anticipating the urgency for extra editions, they began paging their respective circulation managers over public address. By the end of the first half, only one of what had been a swarm of photographers was now working the game. Most others had been summoned to the White House, and to the Japanese Embassy to record the burning of documents, the smoke scene, and to other points of interest.

At the game's end, at the stadium's exit, the Redskins crowd that had thrilled to Baugh's two fourth-quarter touchdown passes in a 20-14 Redskins victory experienced mass shock. Newsboys shouting "Extra!" were flourishing newspapers with

ILLUSTRATION BY GARY KELLEY

Sports columnist Shirley Povich appeared in *The Washington Post* for more than 75 years before his death in 1998 at age 92. Here is a selection of his football commentaries.

big headlines that screamed: "U.S. AT WAR."

For almost three hours, the stadium crowd had been ignorant of the sneak attack on their country, deliberately kept from them on orders of Redskins owner George Preston Marshall. On a day when the United States suddenly was plunged into the biggest war in history, with thousands of Americans already dead or dying, Marshall ordered his staff to make no public announcement to the crowd.

Marshall's later explanation was a statement of his priorities, peculiar to himself: "I didn't want to divert the fans' attention from the game." *(1991)*

THE BEARS HAPPENED

If you're wanting to know what happened to the Redskins yesterday, maybe this will explain it: The Bears happened to 'em.

The Redskins' 73-0 defeat by a team that they had licked a month ago doesn't add up. But there it was. It reminds us of our first breathless visit to the Grand Canyon. All we could say is: "There she is, and ain't she a beaut." When they hung up that final score at Griffith Stadium yesterday, all we could utter was: "There it is, and wasn't it awful."

It reminds us of our first breathless visit to the Grand Canyon. All we could say is: "There she is, and ain't she a beaut." When they hung up that final score at Griffith Stadium yesterday, all we could utter was: "There it is, and wasn't it awful."

We're going to win one title right here—the championship for understatement—by saying that the Redskins didn't play good football yesterday. But somehow, we can't get mad at the Redskins. It was an agonizing experience for those poor fellows who probably are more angry at themselves than you or we ever could be toward them.

We saw Redskins in tears after the ball game. Some of these elder players weren't sorry for themselves. They were ashamed of the way they let their Washington fans down. *(1940)*

FAREWELL, VINCE

The Vince Lombardi story has ended too soon, his allotted years too few. A dreaded sickness cut down a man who exceeded his renown as professional football's most distinguished and successful coach. Vince Lombardi transcended the game that made him famous and that he, in turn, honored with the genius he brought to it.

To football he gave more than the withering Green Bay sweep and the wonders of the five NFL and two world championships he won in nine years of coaching the Packers. No man has had more impact on the game, and the great legacy left to football by the son of an immigrant Italian butcher was the gift of the Vince Lombardi years...

Football writers, in noting the scope of Lombardi's coaching triumphs and his complete command of his players' loyalties, dwelled often on the Lombardi mystique. At this he scoffed, ascribing all spiritual powers only to the divine, in which his own belief was complete. But others persisted in the belief in his special powers of accomplishment. *(1970)*

AN INTEGRATED END ZONE

For 18 minutes the Redskins were enjoying equal rights with the Cleveland Browns yesterday, in the sense that there was no score in the contest. Then it suddenly became unequal in favor of the Browns, who brought along Jim Brown, their rugged, colored fullback from Syracuse.

From 25 yards out, Brown was served the ball by Milt Plum on a pitchout, and he integrated the Redskins' goal line with more than deliberate speed, perhaps exceeding the famous Supreme Court decree. Brown fled the 25 yards like a man in an uncommon hurry, and the Redskins' goal line, at least, became interracial. *(1960)*

THE GALLOPING GHOST

At the University of Illinois, many years ago, they decided October 18, 1924, would be a nice day to dedicate their new football stadium. In an appropriate manner, of course. In this matter they would be greatly assisted by their left halfback, Harold Grange. He would make it a day impossible to forget, and glorious to Illinois memory.

On that afternoon, Illinois's opposition was a proud Michigan team. And 12 fleeting minutes after the opening kickoff had blown up in their faces on a 95-yard runback by Grange, the Wolverines were a thunderstruck and destroyed team...(It was) Illinois 27, Michigan 0. What had happened to Michigan?

Harold (Red) Grange was what had happened to 'em. All four of Illinois's rapid touchdowns were Grange's handiwork and footwork. And as if those runs, all from long range, did not deliver enough impact, he would break away for a fifth score later in the 39-14 victory in his whirlwind rush into the record books and football immortality...

When the pros lusted for him, he signed with George Halas's Chicago Bears for the biggest contract ever attained by a pro, $100,000 plus a percentage of the gate, when $5,000 was a considerable wage.

Halas foresaw Grange as a huge box-office attraction and in this he was most accurate....How did Grange fare as a competitor in the NFL? Four times in six years all-league. Swept into its Hall of Fame as a charter member. *(1991)*

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BEHIND THE SCENES

TRACKING THE GAME FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN 1967 TO THE MEGA-EVENT OF TODAY

In the beginning, there was Super Bowl I, or as it was known then, the AFL-NFL World Championship Game.

The NFL office had three weeks to put the game together. A room in the Los Angeles Hilton Hotel served as the ticket office. The media workroom was moved every day because the hotel had other uses for the larger rooms.

CBS and NBC televised the game to an estimated viewing audience of 50 million, none of the viewers in Los Angeles, where the game was blacked out. More than 30,000 tickets went unsold, the only non-sellout in Super Bowl history. The Grambling and Michigan college bands provided the halftime show. There were seven league-office staffers overseeing the event. January, 1967, seems like a long time ago.

Switch to 1999. Super Bowl XXXIII was sold out long before the tickets were printed. The game will be viewed in the United States by an audience of more than 130 million. Worldwide, the number will approach 800 million. Hotel rooms booked for the event will exceed 30,000.

The halftime show will be a high-tech extravaganza featuring Stevie Wonder, Gloria Estefan, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, and a cast of more than 2,000.

There will be more than 7,500 people working the game on Super Sunday. And by the time the visitors to south Florida leave, they will have added $300 million to the local economy during Super Bowl week.

"At the start we were doing a lot of things to try to attract interest," says Don Weiss, who worked for the NFL for 30 years. He was in charge of planning the first 13 Super Bowls as the NFL's director of public relations.

"We sold out the second game, but only because we went to airlines and corporations and other businesses and offered them blocks of tickets. We filled Tulane Stadium in the fourth game by telling anybody who had a Saints' season ticket we would match their allotment ticket for ticket."

When the NFL hired Jim Steeg in 1979 to take the responsibilities of the Super Bowl off Weiss's hands, things had changed. No more selling was required. The public had fallen in love with the game.

Planning for Super Bowl XXXIII has spanned 3½ years and has involved local police and fire departments; lawyers; the State Department; Secret Service; FBI; FAA; transportation experts; architects; builders; specialists in the entertainment, hotel, and food service industries; chambers of commerce; a host committee; civic groups; stadium management; and assorted other consultants.

"For a lot of people who come to this game, this is their one chance to be here and we should make it their ultimate fan experience," says Steeg, the NFL's vice president of special events. "They may never go again, and ten years from now, you want them to say, 'I was at the Super Bowl, and you wouldn't believe how great it is.'

"The challenge is trying to manage all of the elements and place them in a perspective of relative importance. "Super Bowl is so dramatically different from what it used to be. It's not even the same set of circumstances from year to year."

What Super Bowl is, is a lot of stories, facts, and figures.

FOX has a crew of more than 300 on site to televise Super Bowl XXXIII.

The telecast will require more than five miles of cable, all linked to a 40,000-square-foot compound located in the depths of Pro Player Stadium.

"We're planning on thirty cameras for game coverage and eight cameras for pregame," says FOX's Larry Jones. "We'll have nine specialty mobile units at the stadium."

Whitney Houston had appeared on stages throughout the world, so singing the National Anthem at Super Bowl XXV shouldn't have been any big deal. Whatever the reason, she appeared nervous.

As she walked from her dressing room at Tampa Stadium, she gripped the escort's hand tightly. She was going to enter the field at the 50-yard line from the Giants' sideline. The closer she got to the 50, the tighter the grip on her escort's hand became.

Enter Giants coach Bill Parcells, who was about to take his team onto the field.

"I'll tell you what," he said to Houston, "I'll sing the Anthem if you coach my team." They both laughed, and Houston relaxed her grip.

Arista Records sold 724,596 copies of Houston's rendition of the Anthem, according to SoundScan. The royalties and profits were donated to the American Red Cross Gulf Crisis Fund to benefit U.S. military families.

The Federal Aviation Administration will have a tower in Section 422 of Pro Player Stadium to monitor what is expected to

AT THE SUPER BOWL

BY BILL BARRON
ILLUSTRATIONS BY JAMES BENNETT

be 250 helicopter takeoffs and landings before and after the game. Air traffic controllers also will keep an eye on as many as eight blimps and more than 200 flyovers by banner-towing planes and wing writers.

At Super Bowl XXXII, the Denver Broncos were assigned to practice at the San Diego Chargers' facility, which is surrounded by a hill that offers a great view. Head coach Mike Shanahan instructed Broncos' director of operations Bill Harpole to make certain that no interlopers were spying.

Harpole hired 60 security people and six Marines to scour the hill before and during practices.

"The first day of practice, several players thought that the president was planning to visit because there were so many people on the hill," he recalls.

The Broncos had no security problems. But there were plenty of other matters to tend to.

"The biggest challenge of the Super Bowl is the scope of the week," Harpole says. "You have no idea what takes place and how much time and effort is consumed in getting everyone in town, practicing for a week, playing the game, and then getting out of town."

The Broncos arranged transportation to and from San Diego for more than 1,700 people. The families, extended families, friends, and relatives were housed in nine different hotels. It took 39 buses to transport them around town.

The players, meanwhile, were in isolation.

"Most of them chose not to go out into the public," Harpole says. "They wanted to keep a low profile."

The NFL provides the Super Bowl officiating crew with 144 Wilson footballs for use during the game. Game officials are determined through a season-long grading process. The ratings are analyzed, and the top-rated officials at each of the seven positions work the game.

NFL Properties awards licenses for Super Bowl postgame locker-room apparel. Logo Athletic produces the hats, Starter the T-shirts. Such exposure has dramatic marketing power.

When Green Bay won Super Bowl XXXI, Logo Athletic sold 800,000 Packers Super Bowl champion hats.

OH, SAY CAN YOU SING? **Whitney Houston was nervous before Bill Parcells broke the tension at Super Bowl XXV.**

"...The best of the bunch..."

(Houston Chronicle)

"...Outstanding..."

(Kansas City Star)

"...One of the most polished pregame shows..."

(Philadelphia Inquirer)

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The Show the Pros Watch

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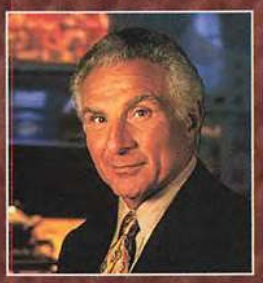
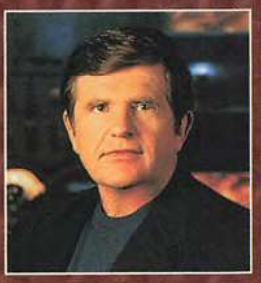

Thursdays at 11 PM ET/PT

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QVC sold more than 35,000 Broncos Super Bowl champion hats last year after Super Bowl XXXII—in seven minutes!

"Just melted our phone lines," says Greg Bertoni of QVC. "In the two-hour broadcast we did right after the game, more than 1.5 million people tried to place orders."

The Nielsen rating for the telecast of Michael Jackson's halftime performance at Super Bowl XXVII was 45.5 (90 million viewers). By comparison, the average rating for the Toronto-Atlanta World Series that same year (1992) was 20.2, and the average rating for the Chicago-Phoenix NBA championship series at the end of the 1992-93 season was 17.9.

One of the true classics in NFL lore was Bill Granholm, who worked for the NFL for 27 years before his death in 1993. He had a real feel for the game, as demonstrated by his misgivings about the halftime show at Super Bowl XV.

"We really ought to scratch the elephant," Granholm told Weiss. "Bad things always happen when you have elephants in a show."

"We left it in the show," Weiss says, "and right in the middle of the end zone, right on top of all the decorations...." You get the picture.

Granholm came on the walkie-talkie and said to Weiss, "See, I told you."

The field for Super Bowl XXXIII is new, the work of George Toma, a 33-year Super Bowl veteran, and his son Chip. The grass (125,000 square feet) was grown on a farm owned by golfer Greg Norman in Avon Park, Florida. The trade name of the grass is GN1.

The crew used 800 gallons of paint to mark the Pro Player field with yard lines, numbers, logos, and team names.

Diana Ross is the only entertainer to sing the National Anthem at the Super Bowl (XVI) and to be the lead performer in the halftime show (XXX).

Her halftime show in Phoenix included a memorable exit on a helicopter that descended to pick her up on the stage.

The helicopter concept was not an easy sell. "It all came down to the rehearsal on the Thursday night before the game," says producer Michael Fiur of Radio City Productions. "We had the governor of Arizona, the president of Arizona State, the president of the NFL, the president of Radio City, and at least forty lawyers and risk managers. They came in and watched the test.

"As part of the test, we placed an upside-down plastic soda cup on the ledge of the front row of the stadium. If the cup blew over, the helicopter was creating too much wind and the idea would be scrapped. The cup stayed put."

The helicopter had two pilots on board.

"If the pilots saw anything that gave them cause for concern, they weren't going to land," Fiur says.

The NFL will utilize 1,100 buses, 900 limousines, and more taxis than anyone can count at Super Bowl XXXIII. To satisfy those needs, Paul Ridgeway, the league's transportation consultant, found every available bus and limousine in Florida, then went looking elsewhere.

"The limos come from all over the country," he says, "and a lot of the buses are from the surrounding states."

Most of the buses and limousines will end up at Pro Player Stadium on Super Sunday, along with 8,000 cars and at least 450 recreational vehicles.

Complicating matters is that the vast majority of people descending on Pro Player never have been there before, thereby causing both vehicle and foot-traffic problems

For its finale during this year's pregame show, KISS will perform its anthem song, "Rock and Roll All Nite."

"The place should be jumping," says Bob Best, who is producing his sixteenth Super Bowl pregame show.

This year's show dwarfs the first Best production at Super Bowl XVIII.

"We had the Florida and Florida State marching bands," he recalls. "There was a balloon release during player introductions. At the time, I thought it was fairly grand stuff. This year, we'll have a cast of 2,000, including 1,200 dancers, pyrotechnics, big inflatable helmets for the player introductions, and lots of special effects."

Facts and figures on Super Bowl XXXII:

- *The economic impact to the area was an estimated $295 million.*

SUPER GRASS: The grass installed for Super Bowl XXXIII was grown on a farm owned by professional golfer Greg Norman.

THE HOST WITH THE MOST

(SUPER BOWLS)

The first winner of Super Bowl XXXVI was determined at an NFL owners' meeting in October when New Orleans was awarded the January, 2002, game over San Diego.

Mayor Marc Morial said the city expects a $350-$400 million economic bonanza because of the game. Fresh in his mind was Super Bowl XXXI, which brought $250-$300 million in spending to the city.

Hosting a Super Bowl is a big business that requires a full-scale commitment from all segments of the community, ranging from the host team to hotels to convention centers to golf courses.

The New Orleans bid became valid only after Ed McNeil, executive vice president of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, was able to reschedule the Diving Equipment Manufacturers Association convention that had been scheduled the same month.

Both New Orleans and San Diego had 15 minutes to state their cases before NFL club owners in October. That came only after both cities had filed the necessary paperwork (more than 100 pages) with the league.

The stadium questionnaire alone is exhaustive. For instance:

"If the average January temperature is below 60 degrees, the stadium must be domed.

"The minimum fixed salable seating capacity must be at least 70,000.

"The required minimum for wheelchair guests is 100 spaces, plus 100 seats for companions.

"The NFL requires at least 900 working spaces for media...a minimum of 30 booths for radio broadcasts....

"Identify a site which is authorized for use as a heliport to accommodate up to 400 landings and takeoffs on game day...."

It is mandatory that bidding cities have an NFL team.

The groups were permitted five representatives in the room. All were community leaders who extolled their city's merits. Both groups showed videos. The presentations were followed by comparative and financial analyses of both bids that were prepared by Jim Steeg and the NFL's special events staff. Before the first vote, the membership heard from the two owners, the Saints' Tom Benson and the Chargers' Alex Spanos.

The voting was secret ballot and required a 75-percent majority for first-ballot approval. Neither city got the required votes. The second ballot was simple majority and New Orleans emerged the winner. The game will be the city's ninth Super Bowl, the most hosted by any city.

"This is a tremendous boost to the city, not only financially but also for the morale of the community," McNeil says. "It makes people proud.

"New Orleans is a different animal [from other cities] because the core of the action is downtown. The restaurants and hotels are all downtown so it makes for a very exciting event." Super Bowl sites are now set through 2003. After , the Super Bowl moves to Atlanta (XXXIV), then to Tampa (XXXV), New Orleans (XXXVI), and San Francisco (XXXVII).

—Bill Barron

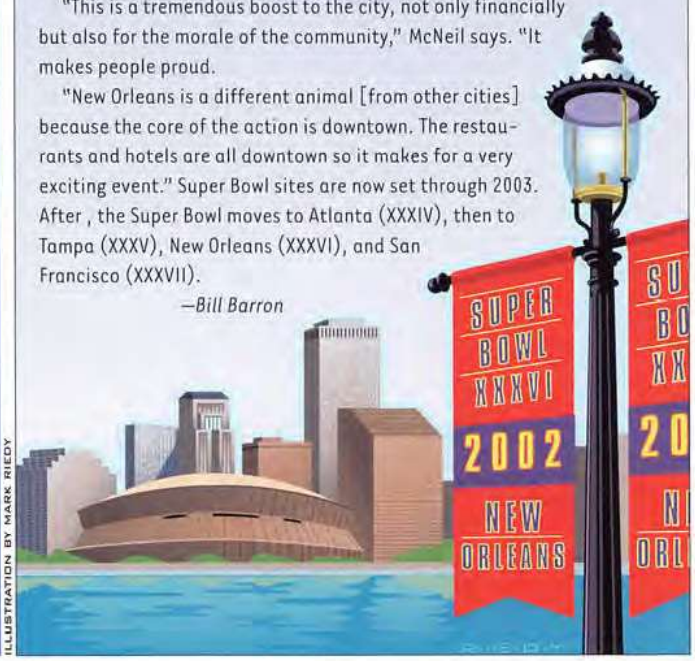

ILLUSTRATION BY MARK RIEDY

- *There were 35,000 hotel rooms reserved.*
- *Super Bowl visitors rented or leased 7,000 cars, 1,100 buses, and 600 limousines.*
- *A total of 458 local contractors were hired because of the Super Bowl, including 100 owned by minorities or women (part of the league's minority business program).*

Among her other jobs, Sue Robichek, the league's director of special events planning, is responsible for organizing the NFL's annual invitation-only Super Bowl party. She also is in charge of the catering for the press box and ancillary areas. "We distribute about 3,500 box lunches," she says.

But her favorite Super Bowl activity is something different.

Prior to Super Bowl XXVII she proposed that a number of players in town who weren't playing in the game go as a group to visit local hospitals and kids' clubs.

"I don't have any problem getting participants," she says of the outing, which has evolved into an annual event and is scheduled the Monday before the game. "In fact, some of the players come to town to do just this—guys like Michael Haynes, Brian Baldinger, Brett Perriman, and Eric England.

"In New Orleans [Super Bowl XXXI] we went to the Children's Hospital, and the players met a woman who explained that her son was dying of a brain tumor.

"It was so overwhelming for the players because they have kids of their own. A couple of them came up to me and said they couldn't go on, that they just couldn't see any more people that day."

In San Diego last year, the group visited a juvenile hall.

"The mood was pretty cold in the room at the start," Robichek says, "but once the players started talking, we couldn't shut the kids up.

"There was this one boy in the back...maybe thirteen years old. He kept raising his hand and asking questions that had nothing to do with football: 'Did you grow up with two parents in your household? Did you receive a lot of support when you were growing up?'

"After we were done, Eric took him into the corner and said, 'I hear you reaching out. You've got to be strong. You've got to be there to support your mom.'

"It was very emotional. The young man was crying, all because someone took the time to talk to him, listen to him, and give him support. I wish people could see this side of the players more often."

There were 338 media representatives at Super Bowl I. At Super Bowl XXXII, there were 417 members just in the international delegation.

The NFL issued 3,000 credentials for Super Bowl XXXIII, most of them to print and broadcast media. The home base for these writers, photographers, and broadcasters is a 45,000-square-foot media center located in the Miami Convention Center.

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When Super Bowl XVII came to the Rose Bowl, NFL security officers were on special alert. That's because the engineering students at Cal Tech, located nearby, were well known for their high-profile pranks.

The pranksters slipped into the stadium early one morning and planted a device in the end zone that was programmed to pop up and reveal a humorous messag, but he culprits were done in by their footprints. Thanks to a layer of frost on the field, a trail of footprints clearly was visible when security personnel inspected the grounds.

The eagle-eyed security officers were from Contemporary Services Corporation, which is working its twenty-third Super Bowl this year.

"Our component is more in crowd management than police security," says Pete Kranske of CSC.

CSC will employ 3,000 people for its Super Bowl activities. The labor force comes primarily from the military, student athletes, and other college students. They provide security services at NFL headquarters, team hotels and practice sites, corporate hospitality venues, and The NFL Experience, in addition to the game.

The estimated viewing audience for Super Bowl XXXII was 133.4 million. Out-of-home viewers (bars, clubs, etc.) added an estimated 15 million to the total.

Between 9:30 and 9:45 P.M. (EST), late in the fourth quarter, the Nielsen rating for the game was 50.9, which means more than half of the homes in the United States were tuned to the telecast.

The Super Bowl is a big payday for the players ($48,000 for each member of the winning team). But the money often takes a back seat to the ring.

"You'll find that a majority of the players are very, very interested in the ring," says John Scarpellini, who was with Balfour for 27 years before going to work for Jostens in 1995. Jostens manufactured the Packers' Super Bowl XXXI ring.

From design to delivery, it takes 15-20 weeks to make the rings. The process is lengthy because each recipient has his name inscribed on the side of the ring.

Rings are made of 10- or 14-carat yellow gold and enough diamonds to make a jeweler blanch (pages 94 and 97).

The NFL allows the winning team to spend $5,000 for each of 120 rings.

NFL Films will shoot more than 20 miles of 16-millimeter film of Super Bowl XXXIII, with a crew of 15-18 cameramen recording at speeds ranging from 24 to 120 frames per second.

Films exposed at the fastest speeds can be played back "so you can actually read Paul Tagliabue's name on the ball as it goes through the air," says Kennie Smith of NFL Films. "The slow motion gives us the real beauty of the game."

Super Bowl XXXII was televised in 187 countries, 12 of which sent crews to San Diego. ESPN International broadcast the game in four languages, and FOX Sports Américas televised the game to Latin America.

NFL Films oversees the international broadcasts.

"These countries will do either a voice-only narration, live narration, or something as sophisticated as a host network from a broadcast booth with cameras and commentators," says Jay Gerber of NFL Films. "We distribute and produce our own world feed of the Super Bowl, which is a stripped-down version of the broadcaster's game.

"The distribution network that takes the signal of the individual broadcasters, as well as our world feed, is set up by NFL Films with all the various fiber links, satellite links, overseas satellite distribution pads. It's a complex network of satellite and fiber distribution that delivers the Super Bowl worldwide."

NFL Films also will provide the facilities for domestic television stations to broadcast remotes from the stadium on game day.

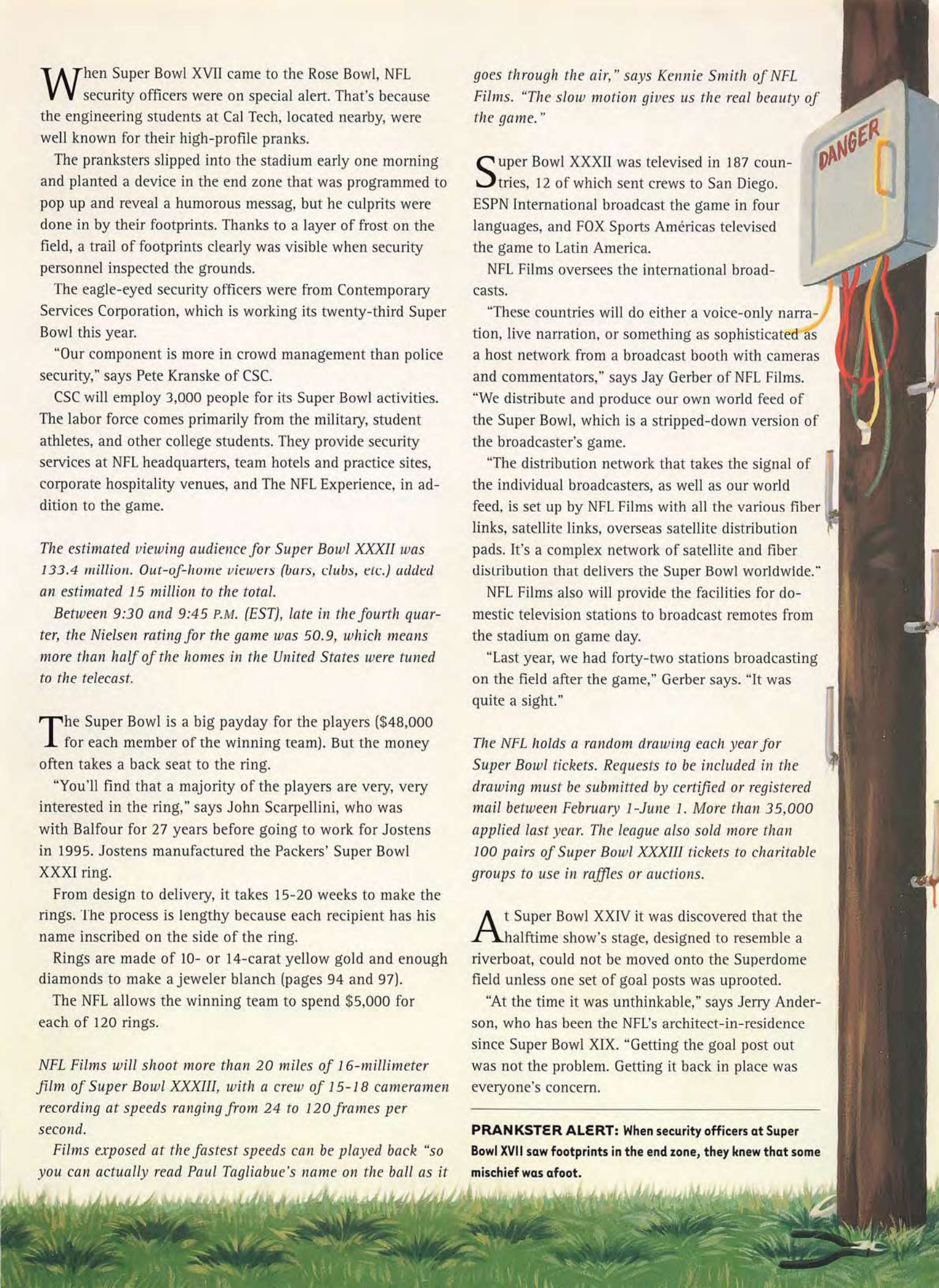
"Last year, we had forty-two stations broadcasting on the field after the game," Gerber says. "It was quite a sight."

The NFL holds a random drawing each year for Super Bowl tickets. Requests to be included in the drawing must be submitted by certified or registered mail between February 1-June 1. More than 35,000 applied last year. The league also sold more than 100 pairs of Super Bowl XXXIII tickets to charitable groups to use in raffles or auctions.

At Super Bowl XXIV it was discovered that the halftime show's stage, designed to resemble a riverboat, could not be moved onto the Superdome field unless one set of goal posts was uprooted.

"At the time it was unthinkable," says Jerry Anderson, who has been the NFL's architect-in-residence since Super Bowl XIX. "Getting the goal post out was not the problem. Getting it back in place was everyone's concern.

PRANKSTER ALERT: When security officers at Super Bowl XVII saw footprints in the end zone, they knew that some mischief was afoot.



"We built a device on a forklift and tested it. It worked. On game day it was all up to forklift driver [John Hancock]."

"He will go down in Super Bowl history," Anderson says. "Hancock replaced it perfectly on the first try. All we had to do was bolt it down."

Steeg collects trading cards, which explains why he thought it would be a good idea to have a card show at Super Bowl XXIV in New Orleans. That show became Town Square (eight tents filled with collectibles) in Tampa at Super Bowl XXV.

Town Square evolved into The NFL Experience, an interactive pro football park, at Super Bowl XXVI in Minneapolis. The only change since then is the size of the event. The NFL Experience for Super Bowl XXXIII, set up this year across the street from Pro Player Stadium, includes 1 million square feet—four times the size of the original.

The NFL Experience passed the 1 million mark in attendance this year.

At Super Bowl XX, the NFL had one cellular phone. It was in Commissioner Pete Rozelle's car, and "it didn't work very well," says Larry Hodge, manager of NFL special events for Sprint. For Super Bowl XXXIII, Sprint provided 350 cell phones to the NFL, NFL Properties, and NFL Films.

Sprint also installed 3,000 land lines to satisfy the various NFL needs. Those needs equate to "twenty miles of cable in and around the Miami area," Hodge says.

The AFL-NFL World Championship Game became the Super Bowl at game III. The use of Roman numerals to designate Super Bowls started with game V.

There are at least three fans who have attended all 32 Super Bowls: Larry Jacobson of San Francisco, Stanley Whitaker of Denver, and Don Crisman of Kennebunkport, Maine. Whitaker and Crisman have attended every game together.

"It started out as a group of five guys," says Crisman. "We were avid football fans, and we thought this game could turn into something, and we met in Los Angeles for a long weekend and attended the first one. By Super Bowl III it was down to Stanley and me."

The closest Crisman has come to seeing his string end? "Last year, I got out of bed on Sunday morning in San Diego, and I still didn't have a ticket. I met a doctor on the elevator in our hotel, and one of the people in his party didn't show up, so he graciously gave me the ticket."

A Super Bowl's lasting legacy is Youth Education Town, an educational and recreational facility for at-risk youth. The NFL has built one in each of the last six Super Bowl cities.

The NFL contributed more than $1 million to help launch the San Diego YET after Super Bowl XXXII. Local corporate and civic partners matched that total.

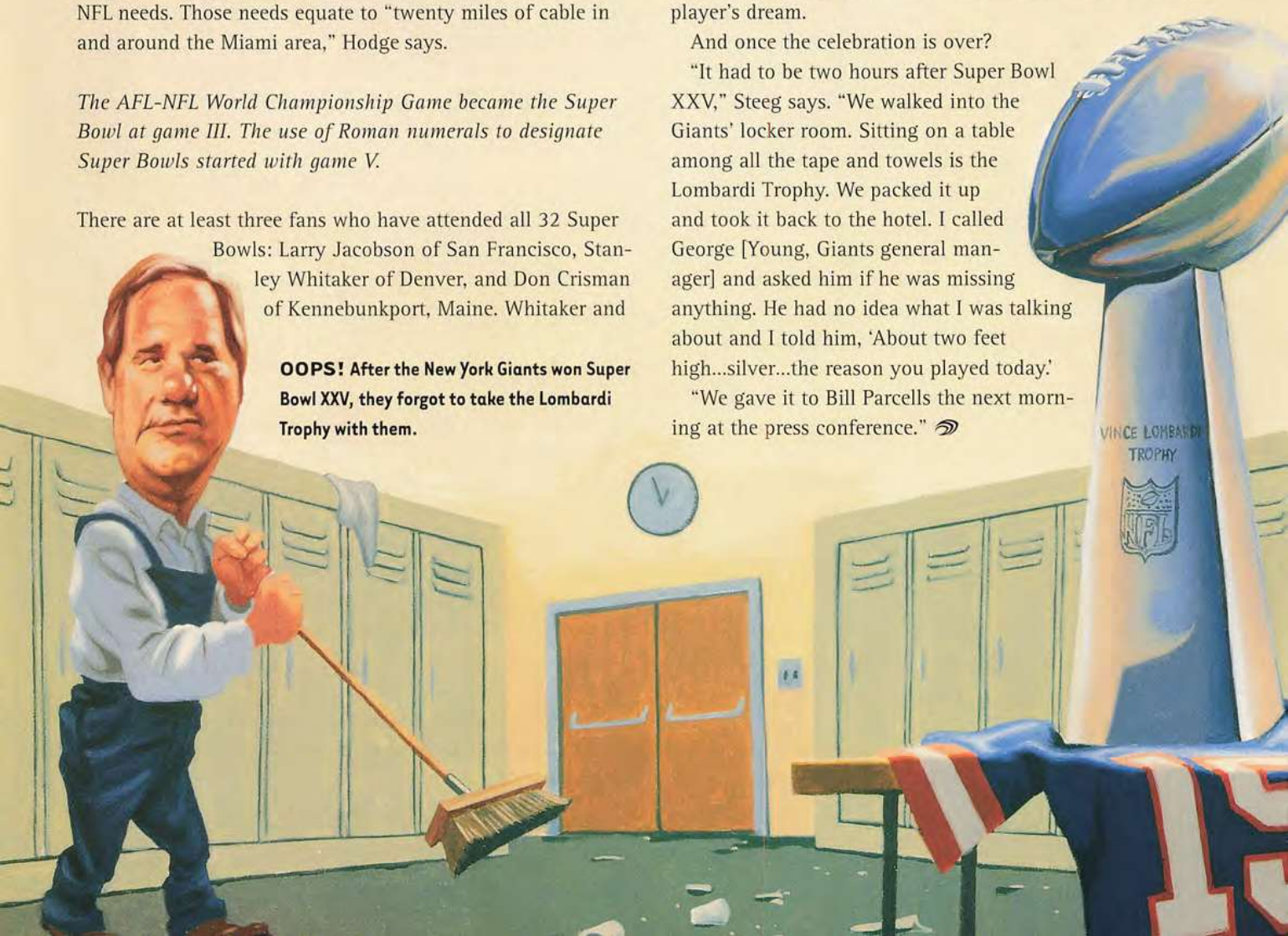
The Vince Lombardi Trophy is pro football's Holy Grail. Manufactured by Tiffany Company in Parsippany, New Jersey, it is 22 inches high, weighs nearly seven pounds, is made out of 116 troy ounces of sterling silver, and takes nearly 72 man-hours to make.

To hoist the trophy in the postgame celebration is every player's dream.

And once the celebration is over?

"It had to be two hours after Super Bowl XXV," Steeg says. "We walked into the Giants' locker room. Sitting on a table among all the tape and towels is the Lombardi Trophy. We packed it up and took it back to the hotel. I called George [Young, Giants general manager] and asked him if he was missing anything. He had no idea what I was talking about and I told him, 'About two feet high...silver...the reason you played today.'

"We gave it to Bill Parcells the next morning at the press conference."



OOPS! After the New York Giants won Super Bowl XXV, they forgot to take the Lombardi Trophy with them.

SUPER BOWL I GREEN BAY PACKERS

SUPER BOWL II GREEN BAY PACKERS

SUPER BOWL III NEW YORK JETS

SUPER BOWL IV KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

SUPER BOWL V BALTIMORE COLTS

SUPER BOWL VI DALLAS COWBOYS

SUPER BOWL VII MIAMI DOLPHINS

SUPER BOWL VIII MIAMI DOLPHINS

SUPER BOWL IX PITTSBURGH STEELERS

SUPER BOWL X PITTSBURGH STEELERS

SUPER BOWL XI OAKLAND RAIDERS

SUPER BOWL XII DALLAS COWBOYS

SUPER BOWL XIII PITTSBURGH STEELERS

SUPER BOWL XIV PITTSBURGH STEELERS

SUPER BOWL XV OAKLAND RAIDERS

SUPER BOWL XVI SAN FRANCISCO 49'ERS

SUPER BOWL XVII WASHINGTON REDSKINS

SUPER BOWL XVIII LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

SUPER BOWL XIX SAN FRANCISCO 49'ERS

SUPER BOWL XX CHICAGO BEARS

SUPER BOWL XXI NEW YORK GIANTS

SUPER BOWL XXII WASHINGTON REDSKINS

SUPER BOWL XXIII SAN FRANCISCO 49'ERS

SUPER BOWL XXIV SAN FRANCISCO 49'ERS

SUPER BOWL XXV NEW YORK GIANTS

SUPER BOWL XXVI WASHINGTON REDSKINS

SUPER BOWL XXVII DALLAS COWBOYS

SUPER BOWL XXVIII DALLAS COWBOYS

SUPER BOWL XXIX SAN FRANCISCO 49'ERS

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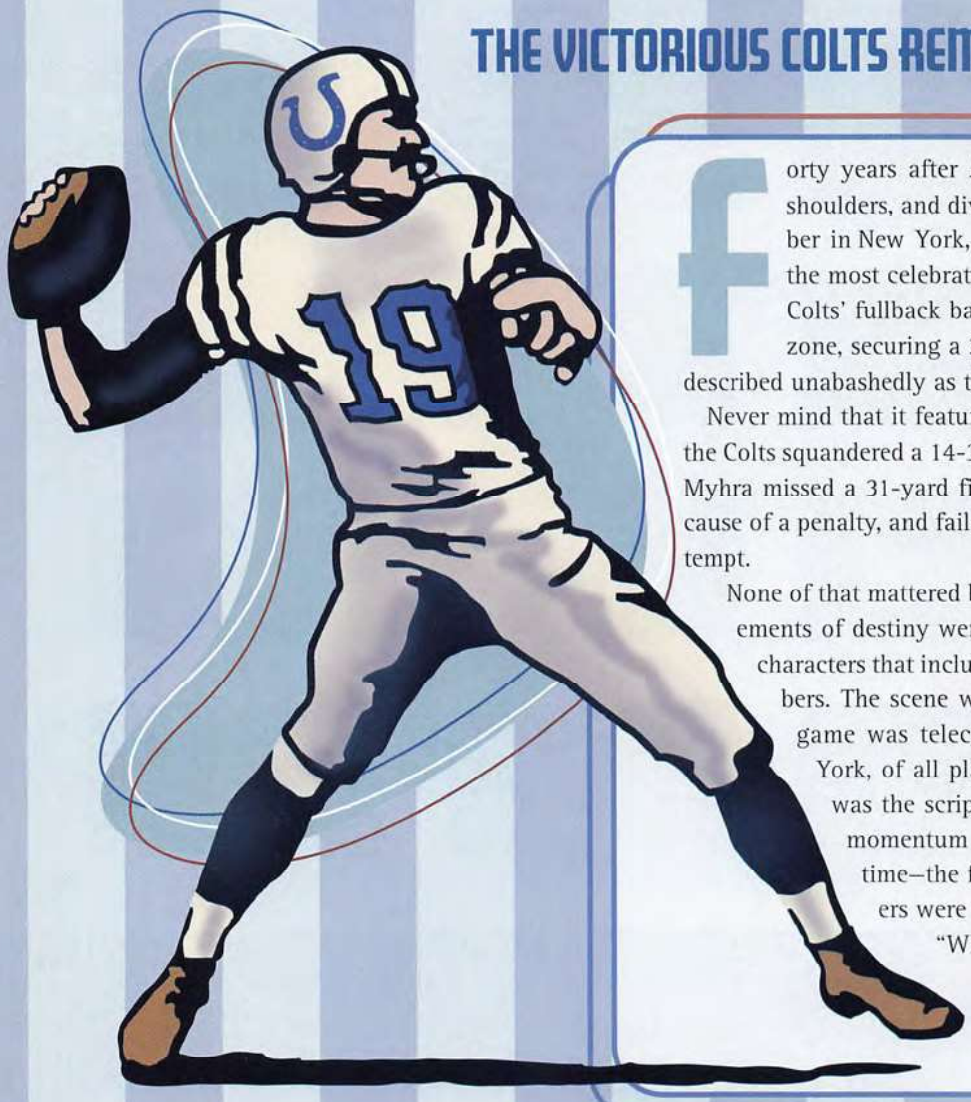
THE VICTORIOUS COLTS REMEMBER THE 'GREATEST GAME



Forty years after Alan Ameche lowered his head, squared his shoulders, and dived through the early evening chill of December in New York, the 1958 NFL Championship Game remains the most celebrated chapter in pro football lore. The Baltimore Colts' fullback barely had landed in the New York Giants' end zone, securing a 23-17 overtime victory, when the contest was described unabashedly as the "Greatest Game Ever Played."

Never mind that it featured 5 lost fumbles and 1 interception. Or that the Colts squandered a 14-3 lead. Nor did it matter that Colts kicker Steve Myhra missed a 31-yard field-goal attempt, was granted a reprieve because of a penalty, and failed again when the Giants blocked his next attempt.

None of that mattered because something larger was at work. The elements of destiny were aligned for this game, which had a cast of characters that included 15 future Pro Football Hall of Fame members. The scene was historic Yankee Stadium, from which the game was telecast nationwide—with the exception of New York, of all places, which was blacked out. And then there was the script: equal parts high drama and intrigue, with momentum swings, a tie score, and a sudden-death overtime—the first of its kind in a title game. Even the players were mesmerized by the day's events.

"When the game ended in a tie," Colts quarterback Johnny Unitas remembers, "we were standing on the sidelines waiting to see what came next. All of a sudden, the officials came

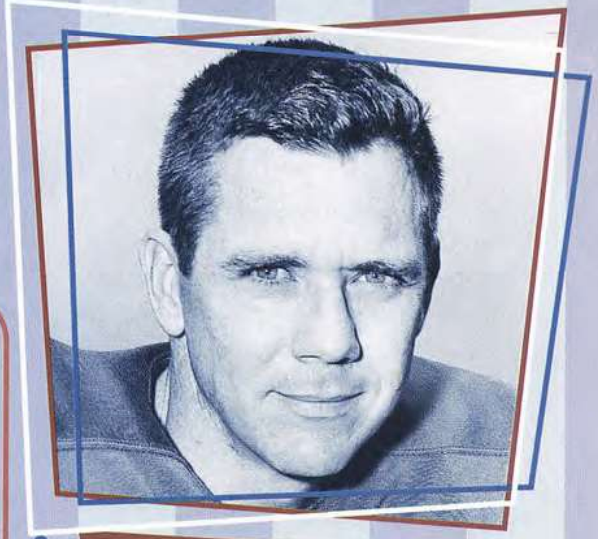
BY TOM BARNIDGE

COLTS

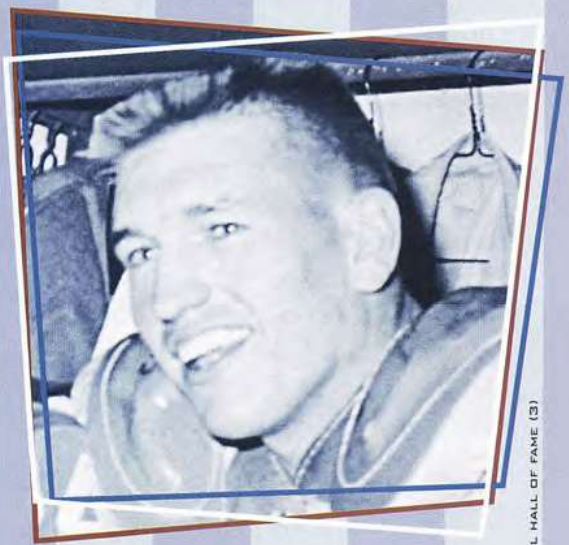
LD GLOW

AS IF IT WERE YESTERDAY

WEEB EWBANK



RAYMOND BERRY



JOHNNY UNITAS

PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME (3)

over and said, 'Send the captain out. We're going to flip a coin to see who will receive.' That was the first we heard of the overtime period."

From the perspective of four decades later, Colts wide receiver Raymond Berry shares another admission: "The significance of that game was lost on us. Most of us were in our early twenties at the time. We weren't into understanding history. But that game was a turning point for the league in terms of the impact it had on the viewing public."

Some contend that the modern NFL was born on December 28, 1958. It was born of heroic performances by marquee players bathed in the national spotlight and conveniently transmitted by network television to the living rooms of a new generation of fans.

Standing squarely at the center of this watershed event were the remarkable Baltimore Colts, who hardly expected to command the nation's attention when they reported to training camp that season.

The 1958 Colts, who opened for business in Baltimore only five seasons earlier, were an unlikely mix of free-agent castoffs, early round draft picks, blossoming young talent, and battle-scarred veterans. They had displayed uncommon poise while beginning the previous season with victories over the Lions, Bears, and Packers. And then they promptly had self-destructed with successive losses to the Lions, Packers, and Steelers.

The 1957 season had, in fact, provided Colts fans with a crash course in promise and disappointment. By week 11, the club owned a 7-3 record and needed just one victory in two games to claim a playoff berth. Back-to-back losses to the 49ers and Rams left Baltimore with a 7-5 record and third place in the Western Conference. It was a bitter taste that lasted through the offseason.

ROBERT RIGER

CLASSIC QUARTERBACK: **The strong arm of Johnny Unitas, protected by a talented line, helped the Colts lead the league in scoring in 1958.**

By 1958, coach Weeb Ewbank was in the fifth year of his announced five-year championship plan, but thanks to a combined record of 20-27-1 he hardly was secure in his first NFL head-coaching assignment. Stories still circulated of how he nearly was dismissed in 1956, when general manager Don Kellett, demonstrating a distinctly curious management style, surveyed a sampling of veteran players for their assessments of the head coach.

"He was asking some of us if the coach should be fired," defensive tackle Art Donovan recalls in wonderment, "and I turned to him and said, 'You're asking me, a player, if the coach should be fired? What are you, crazy?' I told him to give the guy a chance. Weeb still had two years left on his contract."

If any player embodied the spirit of the Colts, it was Donovan, a bigger-than-life defensive tackle who had played without distinction for three previous teams before landing in Baltimore, where he proceeded to carve out a Hall of Fame career. Famous for his ravenous intake of cold cuts, his city-boy fear of furry creatures, and a nervous stomach that caused him to vomit before every game he played, Donovan was the most unmistakable character in the Colts' locker room. He weighed 300 pounds and struggled constantly to fit into Ewbank's 270-pound weigh-in demand—he once gave up baloney and beer as his weight-loss plan—and he was both a favorite of teammates and a frequent target of pranks.

Players still talk about the night in training camp when a dead groundhog mysteriously found its way into Donovan's bed. Shortly thereafter, a blood-curdling scream and a stream of expletives followed his hulking frame as he set out in search of another place to sleep.

"WE PLAYED ONE YEAR AT A TIME, AND WE PLAYED GUNG-HO. IF WE GOT HURT, WE FIGURED WE'D JUST GO OUT AND GET A REAL JOB."

— DEFENSIVE END DON JOYCE

The next morning, calmer and cooler, the huge defensive tackle reported for practice and opened his locker, where the same groundhog, hanging from a rope, greeted him at eye-level. Donovan nearly trampled an equipment man as he ran out of the room.

"We were rich in characters on that team," Berry says, "and I think I understand better now than I did then that the chemistry of a football team—the varied personalities—is extremely important to a winning atmosphere."

It was a simpler time for professional players, who were promised neither fame nor fortune to participate. Players tackled their jobs with different mind sets than they would in later years.

"We played the game because we liked it," defensive end Don Joyce says. "We played one year at a time, and we played gung-ho. If we got hurt, we figured we'd just go out and get a real job. It's not like now, where players want to play ten years and make their fortune."

Camaraderie was part of the team's allure, and it surfaced in postgame parties at players' homes and at various local watering holes after practice. For the Colts, especially, locker-room horseplay was a part of the bond that brought the players together.

Tackle Jim Parker, a gentle giant, frequently was a victim. On the field, he played with a controlled rage that enabled him to manhandle the best defenders in the game. Off the field, he looked warily into his locker after practices for fear of what he would find. Chicken feet. Crawling animals. Live snakes.

"He'd go through his clothes and find something moving," says teammate Lenny Lyles, "and he'd jump all over the place."

Even Gino Marchetti, a no-nonsense defensive end who was bound for the Hall of Fame, found time for the fraternity-style humor that characterized the Colts.

"One day after practice we were fooling around," he says, "and Carl Taseff wanted to get Ameche. So he filled a bucket of water, and waited around the corner until I signaled him that Alan was coming. So here I see Weeb Ewbank, all dressed up to go downtown to do his TV

show, and just as he walks through the door, I give Carl the signal.

"The funniest part was watching how Carl tried to chase after the water and catch it in the bucket before it hit Weeb."

The Baltimore Colts had characters, all right. But what they had discovered by 1958 is that they also had some football talent.

"I started with the Colts in 1954," tight end Jim Mutscheller says, "and I could see that more things were falling in place each season. We started out with a good defense, and we had a good draft in 1955 [Ameche, Dick Szymanski, L.G. Dupre, and George Preas]. Then we picked up Unitas and drafted Lenny Moore. And we got some blockers on the line. By 1958, it just seemed that it was our time.

"We had a lot of good guys on that roster. Donovan had been in combat in the Pacific in World War II. Marchetti had seen duty at the Battle of the Bulge. We had guys who had life experiences, plus they were great football players."

Ewbank's foremost asset, Berry insists, was his knack at sizing up players. "His ability to spot talent was unbelievable," Berry says. "In some cases, our careers depended on that. Unitas and Berry are good examples—a free agent and a twentieth-round draft choice. He saw something in us that others didn't."

Another of Ewbank's strengths was his knowledge of the defensive line, which he previously had coached for legendary Paul Brown in Cleveland. It was Ewbank's "keying defense" that enabled Donovan, heretofore a journeyman player, to utilize his surprising quickness by reading the direction of offensive blocks. And it was Ewbank's decision to move Marchetti from offensive tackle to defensive end that anchored one of the great defensive fronts in history.

"People forget," Berry says, "but the real backbone of our team was defense."

Of course, the '58 Colts offense was difficult to ignore. With Unitas, Moore, and Ameche in the backfield and with Berry and Mutscheller at ends, Baltimore lit up scoreboards throughout the league. There was a 51-38 victory over Chicago and a 56-0 verdict over Green Bay. The Colts defeated Detroit 40-14, Washington 35-10, and Los Angeles 34-7. By season's end, Baltimore led the league in scoring with 381 points—an average of more than 31 points per game.

"Weeb prepared us well," Unitas says. "There never was any doubt as to what the game plan was. But when we got out on the field, he never bothered me as far as play calling. That was pretty much up to me."

Unitas had a rare talent for dissecting defenses, which he soon discovered were "creatures of habit." When he recognized the telltale signs of a blitz, Unitas checked off to a running play. When he identified a receiver with single coverage, he exploited the situation.

"Another thing," Parker says, "he'd ask us in the huddle what plays we thought would work. He'd look at me and say, 'Can we go over your hole and get six yards?' If I'd say, 'yes,' then that's where he'd go."

"John was the kind of quarterback who could find a weakness in a defense that he could take advantage of," Mutscheller says. "He'd sit in the pocket and never panic. If a play didn't work, he'd take off and run. And he didn't run around in the backfield trying to evade a tackler. He was always gaining yardage."

The Colts were sitting atop the Western Conference standings, en route to their sixth victory without a defeat, when they collided with their first real hurdle of the 1958 season. During a lopsided victory over the Packers, Unitas surveyed the field, broke free from traffic, and took off downfield. Seconds after he was tackled, while still lying on the ground, he winced as defensive back John Symank landed on him, knees first. Unitas was helped off the field with three cracked ribs and a punctured lung.

"WEEB PREPARED US WELL. THERE NEVER WAS ANY DOUBT AS TO WHAT THE GAME PLAN WAS."

— QUARTERBACK JOHNNY UNITAS

One week later, the Colts suffered their first defeat—to the same team they would meet seven weeks later in the NFL title game. Donovan remembers it clearly.

"In the last minute of the game," he says, fairly spitting out the words, "as the Giants let the clock run out, they were standing across the line of scrimmage laughing at us. I said, 'You rotten bas-

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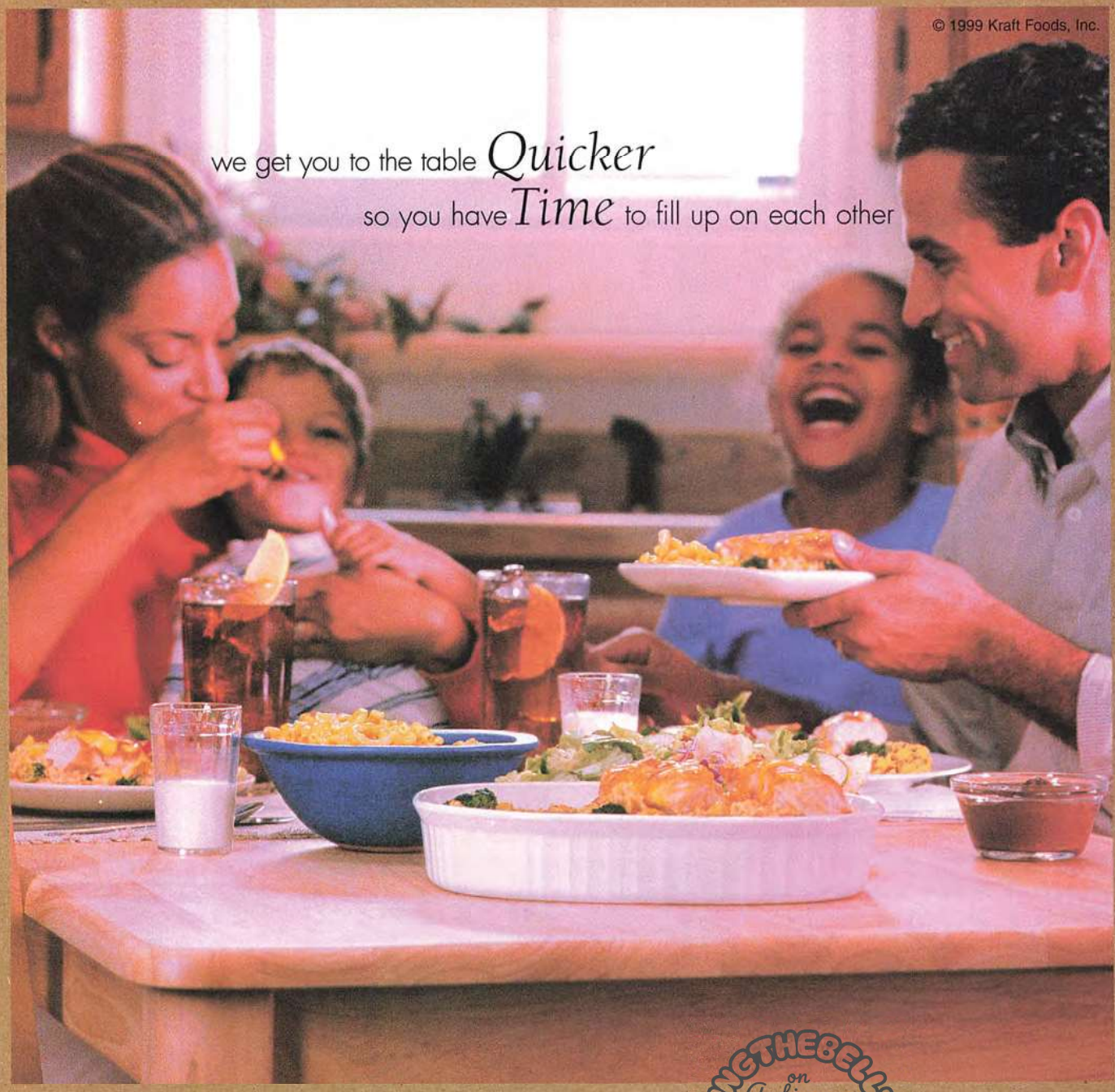
CLUTCH KICK: A 20-yard field goal by Steve Myhra, with seven seconds left, sent the 1958 championship game into overtime.



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tards,' and I picked up some stones on the field and started throwing them at them. Man, I wanted another shot at them."

One week later, with George Shaw at quarterback, the Colts rebounded to defeat the Bears 17-0 and run their record to 7-1. "We had confidence in Shaw," Berry says. "He was the starter before Unitas came along." But the players weren't fooling themselves. They knew they needed Unitas.

"I don't know how the doctors felt about my injury," Unitas says. "But there wasn't any doubt in my mind. I was going to be back that season."

On November 23—week 9 of the 12-week season—Unitas squeezed inside a protective harness to face the Los Angeles Rams. A piece of molded aluminum, covered with a quarter inch of sponge-rubber padding, was fitted to his chest from his sternum to his spinal cord. It was connected at the top and bottom to his shoulder and hip pads. He looked as if he were outfitted for war.

But teammates who worried about how their quarterback would function with a nine-pound breast plate strapped to his pads quickly discovered that their concerns were misplaced. On the Colts' first play from scrimmage, Unitas connected with Moore for a 58-yard touchdown pass. He finished with 218 passing yards in a 34-7 victory.

"One thing about John," Parker says, "he never complained about how he felt."

"He was tough as nails," Joyce adds, "and not just that time. I remember a game against the Bears where he was wearing a helmet that was missing a piece of padding on the front. Somebody hit him in the crown of the helmet, and it slammed down and peeled his nose back. He just taped himself up and kept on playing like nothing happened."

By the tenth week of the season, the Colts were flying high. At 8-1, they needed just one victory to clinch the Western Conference championship and a berth in the NFL title game. Berry remembers the setting.

"The team was gathered and ready to go out for the kickoff," he says, "when Weeb said, 'Okay, all of the coaches are going to leave now because Gino [Marchetti] has a few words he wants to say.' As soon as the coaches left, Gino stepped to the front of the room and said, 'Uh...we've got a party at my house after the game. It's ten dollars for couples, five dollars stag. If we win this game, we'll have a whole lot more fun at the party. Okay, let's go.'

HY PESKIN

GIANT KILLER: Gino Marchetti (89) wasn't much of a motivational speaker, but his talents at defensive end did not go unnoticed by New York ball carriers such as Mel Triplett (33).

"WE WANTED TO PLAY THE GIANTS BECAUSE THEY'D BEATEN US. WE ALL ROOTED FOR THE GIANTS IN THE PLAYOFF GAME."

— DEFENSIVE TACKLE ART DONOVAN

"Jim Mutscheller and I were standing at the back of the room, and we turned to look at each other at the same moment as if to say, 'Can you believe what we just heard?'"

Thus inspired, the Colts fell behind 27-7 by halftime.

"But that," says Berry, "turned out to be the most memorable game any of us played. At halftime, we told the defense, 'Shut 'em out and we'll score twenty-eight. That's exactly what happened."

Unitas passed for a touchdown and ran for another. Berry finished with 9 receptions for 114 yards. And Moore broke free for a 73-yard touchdown run that proved to be the deciding score in a 35-27 victory. It was 1 of 14 touchdowns Moore scored that year.

"Lenny Moore was, in my mind, the greatest offensive player I ever saw," Mutscheller says. "I think everybody on the team felt that way. He could make moves, whether running with the ball or after catching it, that nobody else could match."

With a spot secured in the championship game, the Colts coasted through their last two games, reserves seeing increased playing time in season-ending losses to Los Angeles and San Francisco. Meanwhile, the Giants finished in a first-place tie with Cleveland in the Eastern Conference. In a playoff game, the Giants used a suffocating defense to earn a 10-0 victory and a berth in the title game.

"We wanted to play the Giants because they'd beaten us," Donovan says. "We all rooted for the Giants in the playoff game."

"The Giants were cocky," Marchetti says. "I remember reading that [quarterback] Charlie Conerly had said after our first game that the Giants 'outgutted' us. That article was on our bulletin board weeks before the championship game."

As if further inspiration was required,

WEEB WAS MISSED—AND REMEMBERED

Members of the 1958 Colts attended a reunion in November to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of their championship. John Unitas, Raymond Berry, Art Donovan, and Gino Marchetti were a few of the familiar faces who filled a Baltimore banquet hall, where stories flowed freely and laughs were plentiful. But there was an unmistakable absence in the midst of the fun. Only two days earlier, on November 17, former coach Weeb Ewbank died at 91 in his home in Oxford, Ohio.

In addition to some marvelous memories—Donovan recalled that Ewbank arranged to have orange soda in the locker room for the postgame celebration in '58 ("Orange soda for grown men," Donovan says, lovingly. "The cheap weasel. Can you imagine that?") —Ewbank left behind a coaching legacy that will not be repeated. He is the only coach to produce title winners in both the NFL and AFL.

Ewbank's Colts won NFL titles in both 1958 and '59. His New York Jets won the AFL title in 1968, after which they stunned the football world with a 16-7 upset of—guess who?—the Colts in Super Bowl III. For those distinctive accomplishments as much as his career coaching record (134-130-7), Ewbank was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1978.

Ewbank saved one of the most memorable speeches of his coaching career for the championship game. He gathered the players in the locker room and addressed them one by one.

"Now, you ought to know that Weeb gave some lousy pep talks through the years," Marchetti says. "But the one he gave before the championship game was something you couldn't forget. He went down the roster and talked about each guy, about how he had been released or traded or insulted by some other team.

"I remember he said to Art Donovan, 'You tried out at Cleveland and they didn't want you. Nobody in the NFL wanted you. But we took a chance, and you proved to be great tackle. Now let's show everybody what they missed.' And then he said, 'Raymond Berry, everybody in the league thought you were too slow, too small. They said you'd never make it in the NFL. Let's let 'em see how wrong they were.' And on and on he went, down the line."

A two-week layoff since their last game and the pressure of their first championship appearance showed in the Colts' performance. Unitas fumbled on Baltimore's first offensive series. Then he was intercepted. When the Colts finally advanced close enough to try field goals, Myhra misfired on successive attempts.

In spite of that, the Colts battled to a 14-3 halftime lead on the strength of Ameche's 2-yard touchdown run and Berry's 15-yard touchdown reception. And with the score unchanged when the Colts threatened again late in the third quarter, it seemed as if the game might turn into a blowout. The Colts had first-and-goal at New York's 3-yard line.

"The most awful feeling was when we were trying to score down there near the Giants' goal line," Unitas says. "We were on frozen turf. We tried running twice to the right side, and that didn't work. I tried to sneak, but couldn't get any footing.

"On fourth down, I called a play that had Ameche throwing the ball, but he didn't hear the full play call. He thought it was just a plain pitchout. You look at the films and you see Mutscheller standing in the end zone all by himself. Ameche could have thrown the ball behind his back and had a touchdown, but...."

Ameche was tackled on the 5, and the Giants took over on downs.

Almost immediately, the Giants got back in the game. Conerly completed a pass to Kyle Rote on third-and-2 from the Giants' 13-yard line, and Rote raced to the Colts' 25, where safety Andy Nelson caught him and stripped the ball. But Giants halfback Alex Webster scooped up the ball and advanced to Baltimore's 1 before Taseff forced him out of bounds.

"Webster trailed the play for fifty yards," Berry says, in admiration. "It was one of the greatest second efforts I've ever seen."

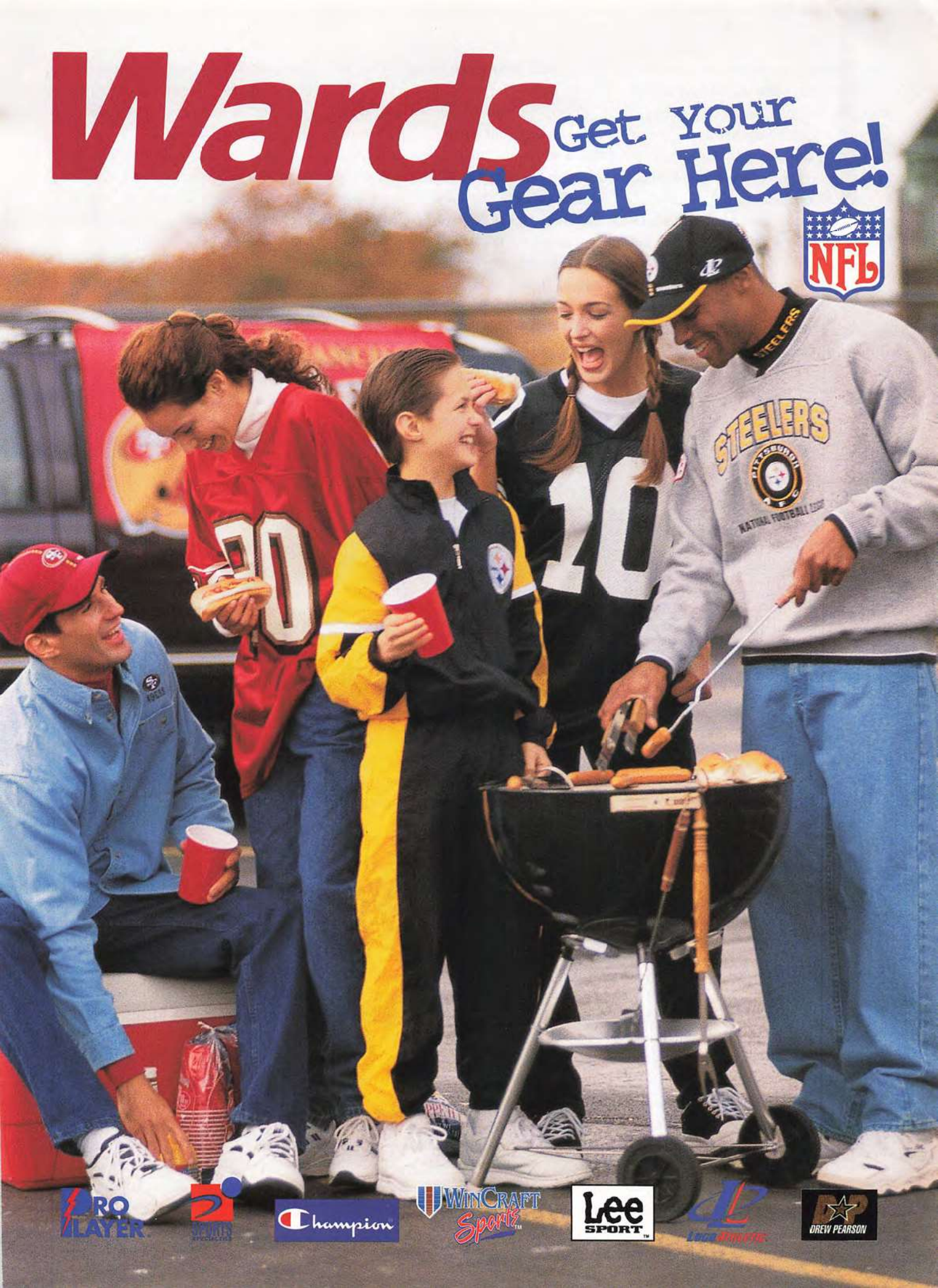
Two plays later, when Mel Triplett scored on a 1-yard run, the margin was narrowed to 14-10. Momentum had begun to turn.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, Conerly connected with end Bob Schnelker for 46 yards. Then Frank Gifford scored on a 15-yard reception, dragging cornerback Milt Davis with him into the end zone. With 14:07 left to play, the unthinkable had occurred. The Giants, once in danger of being routed, had a 17-14 lead.

Ordell Braase, the Colts' second-year defensive end, still remembers the thoughts that were dancing in his head. "I was thinking, 'If we blow this one, it's a damn shame.' If you look at the stats, you can see that we dominated that game."

> **"I WAS THINKING, 'IF WE BLOW THIS ONE, IT'S A DAMN SHAME.' IF YOU LOOK AT THE STATS, YOU CAN SEE THAT WE DOMINATED THAT GAME."**
>
> — DEFENSIVE END ORDELL BRAASE

Baltimore breathed a flicker of life when it advanced within field-goal range. But Bert Rechichar, the Colts'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long-field-goal specialist, was short on a 46-yard attempt that would have tied the score. Opportunity raised its head again when the Giants fumbled on their next possession. But the Colts failed to capitalize when consecutive quarterback sacks put them in a punting situation.

And, finally, it came down to this: The Giants could run out the clock if they converted their final first-down opportunity. On third-and-4, Conerly handed to Gifford, who was met near the first-down marker by Marchetti, then linebacker Don Shinnick, then defensive tackle Gene (Big Daddy) Lipscomb. When the play ended, Gifford was inches short of a first down, and Marchetti was being helped off the field with a broken ankle.

"They wanted to take me to the locker room," Marchetti says, "but I wanted to see the end of the game. I told them to put me down. What the hell, it had taken me seven years to get there, so I wanted to see how the game turned out."

The Giants punted to the Colts' 14-yard line, where, with 1:56 left to play, Unitas gathered the offense for one final assault.

"I remember trotting onto the field for that last series and thinking, 'We've blown this game,'" Berry says. "We should have put the Giants away much earlier."

Two pass attempts fell incomplete, but an 11-yard completion to Moore kept the possession alive. After an incompletion, Unitas connected with Berry on successive completions of 25, 15, and 22 yards. That brought the Colts to New York's 13-yard line. Myrha, who had converted only 4 of 10 field-goal attempts during the season, was good from 20 yards with seven seconds left. The score was 17-17.

"I was lying on the sidelines when the game ended in a tie," Marchetti says. "You could hear guys asking, 'What do we do now?'"

The Giants won the coin toss and elected to receive, but when Conerly's third-down run came up two feet short of a first down, they were forced to punt. Unitas brought the Colts' offense onto the field at their 20-yard line, as 64,185 fans shook the rafters at Yankee Stadium.

"It seemed like everybody in the whole city of New York was in that stadium," Parker says.

Two first downs moved the ball to Baltimore's 41. Then Unitas was sacked. But on third-and-14, Unitas found Berry for a 21-yard gain to the Giants' 42. The play worked so well, he called it again.

WORLD WIDE PHOTO

THE LONGEST YARD: When Alan Ameche powered 1 yard into the Giants' end zone, the Colts were NFL champions.

"But when John got to the line of scrimmage," Braase says, "he noticed that [linebacker] Sam Huff was drifting back to his right to drop into pass coverage. So Unitas checked off and handed to Ameche. That was so typical of John—to spot a weakness and take advantage."

Ameche gained 22 yards to the Giants' 20.

Three plays later, with anticipation hanging in the air, panic swept through the NBC broadcast booth as television screens went blank across the country. Somehow, the broadcast had come unplugged. A plaintive call to field judge Chuck Sweeney resulted in a commercial time out as technicians frantically restored the connection.

Meanwhile, down on the field, Unitas was about to defy convention with a daring cross-field pass from the Giants' 7-yard line. Nothing dangerous about it, Unitas claims, recalling the details as if the game were played yesterday.

"Cliff Livingston, the strongside linebacker, took an inside position on Mutscheller. Emlen Tunnell, the safety, took a position even more inside than Livingston. The only person I had to be concerned about was Lindon Crow, who was covering Lenny Moore. All I had to do was raise up and loft the ball to Mutscheller and make a hero out of him. But he decided to fall out of bounds at the one instead of going over the goal line. I guess it was slippery over there."

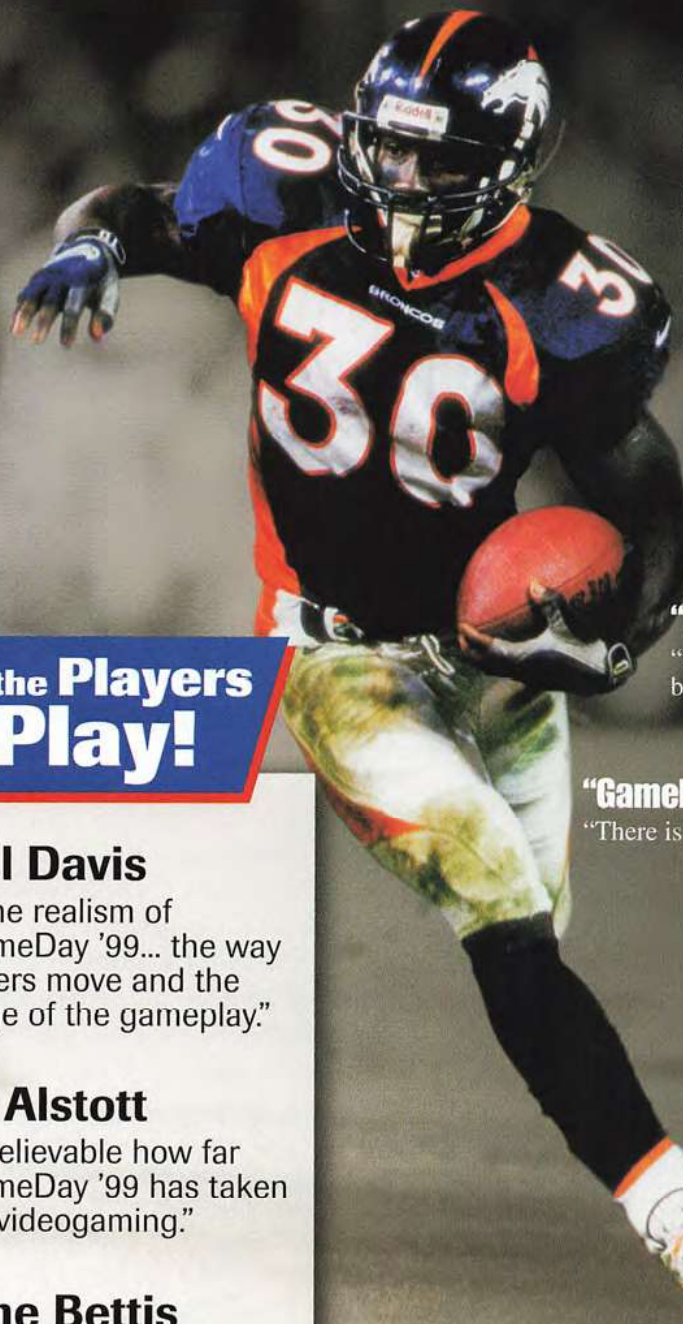
Seconds later, as night fell on New York, Ameche took a handoff from Unitas and dived 1 yard into history.

"When I came off the field," Joyce says, "it was starting to get dark. The bunting hanging from the walls was flapping in the breeze and discarded hot dog wrappers were blowing across the field. I turned to one of our coaches, John Bridgers, and said, 'Take a look at this. Here's a scene we'll never forget. We're world champions standing here in Yankee Stadium.' It was almost like a war scene."

"In the last forty years," Marchetti adds, "I must have met 500,000 people who claimed they were at that game. They say, 'I saw you there on the stretcher at the end of the game.' But I never get tired of talking about it. You never get tired of talking about an important event."

"The King's Reign Continues."

"NFL GameDay '99 has elevated its already lofty status in the sports video game world."—Sport



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–USA Today

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Jack Gallagher

Real Fans Will Watch Early in the Morning

JAPAN

Super Bowl Sunday in America is Super Bowl Monday in Japan. Kickoff for the NFL title game usually is just after 8 A.M. local time, which can make hosting a Super Bowl party or watching the game live a tough task for those who are supposed to be on their way to work.

Of course, ardent football fans will find a way. A remarkable number of workers have doctor appointments, meetings outside the office, or unavoidable chores that prevent them from getting to work before lunch on the day of the game. But most Japanese football fans rely on their VCRs, and when the game is replayed that night on video tape, it is the biggest Monday night game of the year.

Japan generally is thought of as a baseball country, but the truth is that except for the United States, Japan has more American football teams than any other nation in the world. Including high school, college, corporate, and club teams, Japan has nearly 450 full-fledged football squads.

The annual Rice Bowl at Tokyo Dome, which pits the champion of Japan's corporate X-League against the college champion, regularly draws crowds as large as 50,000. Japan also has hosted nine NFL American Bowls.

Japanese fans who must work on Super Bowl Monday likely will know the result of the game from the afternoon newspapers, or they will learn of it on their evening commute home from work.

On Tuesday morning, huge color photos of the Super Bowl normally adorn the cover of every one of Japan's six daily sports newspapers, along with in-depth analysis of the game.

The San Francisco 49ers are the most popular team among NFL fans in Japan. Joe Montana is regarded as the Sadaharu Oh of football. Montana's four Super Bowl triumphs with the 49ers earned him the kind of respect that the Japanese reserve for national sports heroes.

The 49ers' Jerry Rice is the best-known active NFL player. The all-time NFL touchdown leader's amazing feats have been well documented in Japan. Three-time most valuable player Brett Favre of the Green Bay Packers also is well known. In fact, he has appeared in automobile commercials on Japanese television.

The Super Bowl is a piece of Americana to Japanese fans, who recognize it for what it is: the greatest single-day event in sports.

Thomas Hackbarth

American Football Is No Mystery These Days

GERMANY

Brian came from England and lived in a high-rise apartment building at the edge of our little town, a small city in the center of Germany. Brian's parents received AFN—the television service for American soldiers stationed in Germany. That was how I got to see American football for the first time. He and I were 15 years old, and neither of us understood the game.

That was in 1979, at a time when no one in Germany watched American football. A lot has changed.

Germany's newspapers published hundreds of stories about the game in the days leading up to Super Bowl XXXII.

Previous Super Bowls have been televised by various smaller stations, but this year will mark a major breakthrough in Germany. SAT.1 will air the game live and show a two-hour prime-time recap on the night after the game. That's because not everyone will stay up to see the live telecast of Super Bowl, which begins around midnight.

For the most dedicated German fans, Super Bowl tradition includes a rousing party before the game and a coffee during the trophy presentation, which typically occurs between 4 and 6 A.M. Then it's off to work.

The request for Super Bowl tickets has exploded in recent years to such an extent that the game would be a sellout if tickets were sold only in Germany. Thomas Cremer, a 40-year-old fan of the Galaxy, has attended two Super Bowls.

"It was a breathtaking experience," Cremer says of his trips to Pasadena and Atlanta. "Everything surrounding the game was larger than life. They had tents the size of a soccer field filled with nothing but trading cards. On game day, the whole country seems mesmerized by the Super Bowl."

Leonhard Kazda covered Super Bowl XXXI for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine*. Because violence among soccer fans has been a problem in Europe, Kazda appreciated the peaceful atmosphere at the Super Bowl.

"The hoopla around the game is amazing," he says. "I can't compare it to any other sporting event. But what impressed me most was the attitude of the fans."

The Super Bowl has won plenty of fans in Germany, all right. The game has even inspired its own vocabulary. The German word for wide receiver is "Paßempfänger."

Does Jerry Rice know that he plays that position?

Ian MacDonald

The Stanley Cup Pales Alongside Super Bowl

CANADA

Canada remains a confirmed hockey country but for one day each year. When Super Bowl Sunday rolls around, all other sports are ignored. The NFL Championship Game not only is one of the most heralded sports events in the country, so far as television ratings and newspaper coverage are concerned, but it also has become the *raison-d'être* for party time from coast to coast.

Bill Edwards owns three "Cheers" sports bars in the Montreal area, so he knows what entertainment attracts the fans. Expressing an opinion that would have been regarded as heresy not too many years ago, he says that "the Super Bowl is as big as the Grey Cup ever was, and it's bigger than the Stanley Cup."

Whoa!

The Grey Cup is the Canadian Football League championship game, and the Stanley Cup is hockey's Holy Grail. What sports event can possibly be bigger in Canada?

"The only way I could see the Stanley Cup being more popular than the Super Bowl in one of our locations is if the [Montreal] Canadiens were in the final and if it were the last game," Edwards says.

Canada's two original NHL members, Toronto and Montreal, still have an extremely loyal following, and the Grey Cup has become more than just a football game.

Television ratings for Grey Cup games invariably have been near the top for any type of programming. The CBC network attracted a TV audience of 3.1 million for the 1998 game. Throughout a 12-month period, the Grey Cup games of 1997 and 1998 were the two top-ranked prime-time specials for the network. But Global network had 3.4 million viewers for Super Bowl XXXII, easily making it the most-watched broadcast of the year.

Canadian newspapers cover NFL weekends as though there were Canadian teams involved. Not only is there extensive coverage of each weekend's games, including a full page of statistical summaries, but there are frequent feature stories during the week. As soon as the Grey Cup concludes the CFL season at the end of November, NFL games get even greater prominence on sports pages.

Weekly NFL games have helped create a new group of fans and greater interest in the NFL postseason. The Super Bowl is the long-awaited dessert.

Steve Livingstone

Love Affair With NFL Began With Marcus Allen

GREAT BRITAIN

It is hard being an NFL fan in Great Britain. Living in a time zone five hours ahead of New York means sacrifices have to be made on Super Bowl Sunday, one of which is sleep.

But in a testament to the popularity of the world's biggest sports event an estimated 4 million television viewers in Scotland, England, Ireland, and Wales will forgo some slumber to watch Super Bowl XXXIII into the wee hours of Monday morning.

Super Bowl Mondays have become a sporting tradition in the U.K., reflecting not only a vibrant interest in American football but also the popularity of the NFL's American Bowl series and the NFL Europe League.

Britain's fascination with the Super Bowl began in 1984. NFL games first were broadcast in the U.K. in 1982, but it was Marcus Allen's 74-yard touchdown run in Super Bowl XVIII, sealing that Raiders' 38-9 victory over the Redskins, that captured the fans' imagination. After that, the memories seemed to pile one atop another.

British sports fans were enamored of Joe Montana when he directed the 49ers to a 38-16 victory in Super Bowl XIX. Then came the Bears' 46-10 Super Bowl XX shuffle past the Patriots, during which more than 8 million Britons were in front of their TV screens at 3:30 a.m.

The interest in Super Bowl XX was so strong that the NFL decided it was time to bring the NFL to the U.K. In the summer of 1986, the American Bowl series was born at London's Wembley Stadium. The Bears defeated the Cowboys 17-6 in a preseason game before 82,000 spectators.

Britain's football boom of the late '80s leveled off, but the interest in the NFL remains strong. The most popular NFL teams are the Cowboys, Bears, Dolphins, and 49ers.

The game will have an extra edge for one city in the U.K., thanks to the NFL's U.K. City Challenge, which pairs 30 British cities with the 30 NFL teams. The British city that is aligned with the winning team will land a $50,000 cash jackpot for the community.

Super Bowl XXXIII will be shown live on Sky Sports, Britain's premier sports satellite channel, but while American households will hear the voices of John Madden and Pat Summerall, Sky will offer a British flavor with play-by-play provided by English commentator Nick Halling.

BULOVA

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- *Fully charged watch runs more than 2 months without motion*
- *Recharge warning: second hand jumps every 2 seconds*
- *No need to replace battery*
- *Stainless steel cases and bracelets*
- *Open back view of oscillating movement*
- *Water resistant to 100 meters (330 feet)*

Gordon's

JEWELERS

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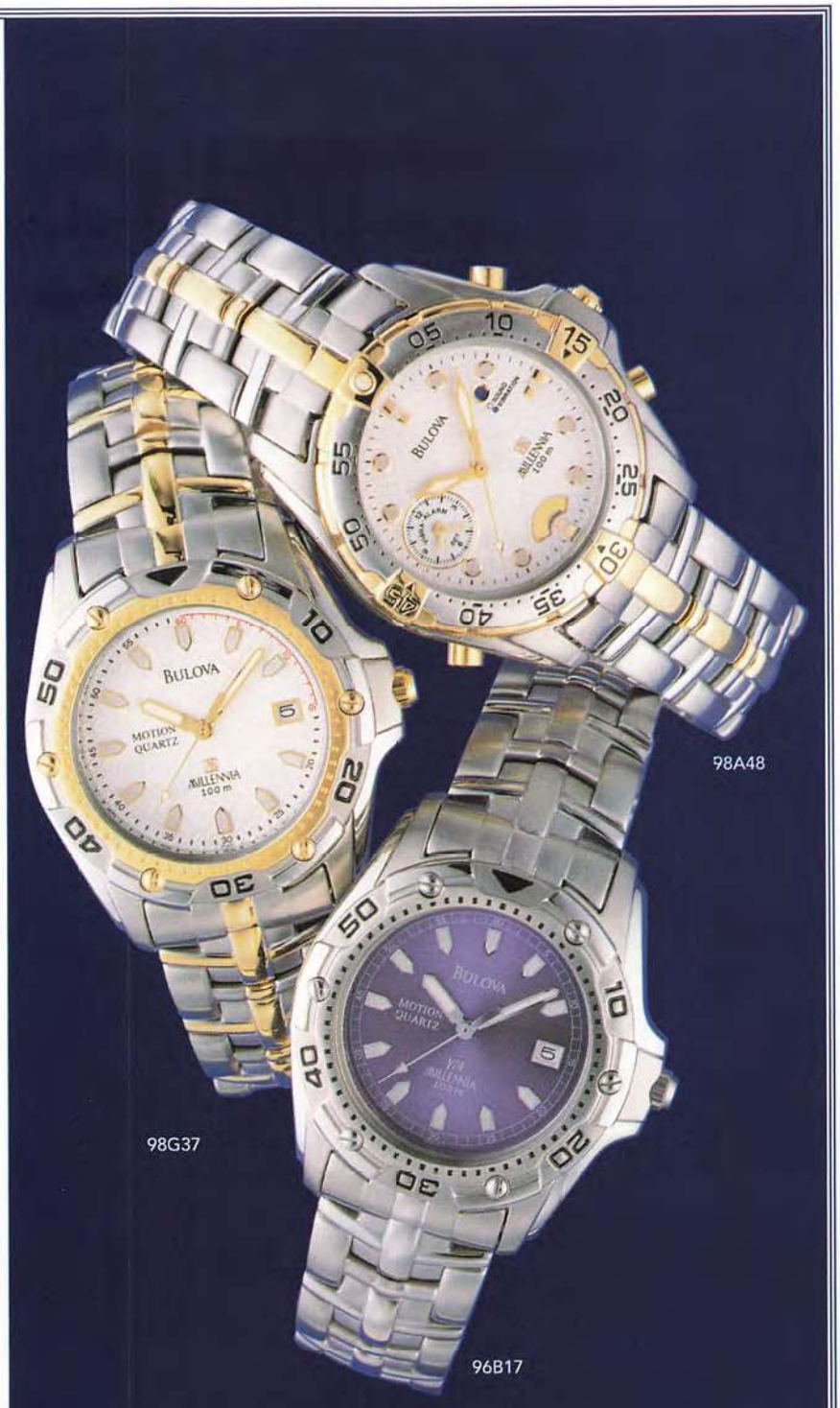

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NFL Update

NFL, UNITED WAY CELEBRATE 25 YEARS

The NFL arrived at a milestone this season that was 25 years in the making, and it had nothing to do with completed passes, rushing yards, or touchdown receptions. The landmark was the silver anniversary of the NFL's ongoing partnership with United Way.

Any fan who has watched a televised NFL game likely has seen the public-service announcements that have been a hallmark of the fund-raising campaign. Since the inception of the program, more than 950 players, coaches, and owners have volunteered to appear in spots that explain and promote the community services funded by United Way. The NFL has provided more than $1 billion of free television time toward that end.

The league's involvement with United Way began under former Commissioner Pete Rozelle as a way for the NFL to give back to the communities that supported its teams. But its impact has exceeded even Rozelle's vision on occasion.

Tackle Steve Wallace, then with the San Francisco 49ers, adopted two of the children with whom he filmed a message about adoption agencies. Tackle Lomas Brown of the Arizona Cardinals, after appearing on behalf of babies born to drug-impaired mothers, wrote that the experience was "the most noteworthy thing I will ever do as an NFL player."

UNITED EFFORT: The Steelers' Carnell Lake is among hundreds of volunteers.

The NFL's commitment to United Way has extended beyond television. Teams and players support the organization through personal appearances, minicamps for disadvantaged youth, participation in disaster-relief funds, and other programs.

A variety of local and national activities marked the twenty-fifth year of the "Partners in Caring" celebration:

- United Way in each NFL city earmarked $25,000 to local charitable agencies designated by the local NFL team.
- A "trade-in program" encouraged fans to donate old NFL-licensed apparel to local United Way agencies in exchange for discount coupons toward new purchases.
- Twenty-five NFL players and musical entertainers performed in the recording of NFL Anthem, a video and CD that stresses the power of teamwork and features past NFL-United Way spots. Proceeds from sales will go to the United Way.

"True success always is about teamwork," NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue says. "There was not one program that Pete Rozelle cherished more than our partnership with United Way, and I am proud to continue the legacy. The collaboration has enabled the NFL and United Way to help people understand the numerous challenges we all face in our communities."

NFL PHOTOS (2)

COMMUNITY SPIRIT: Saints owner Tom Benson visits a United Way agency in New Orleans.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT MEANS MORE THAN LABOR PEACE

When NFL owners and the NFL Players Association agreed before the season to extend their Collective Bargaining Agreement through 2002, they ensured that the NFL would be the only major sports league to avoid a work stoppage in the nineties. They also made sure that thousands of youngsters would have more opportunities to play football.

One product of the agreement was a $100 million NFL Youth Football Fund, supported by both the league and the players, which is dedicated to the development of youth football initiatives. Among the first recipients of grants were seven nonprofit groups selected by the NFL as National Youth Football Partners—the YMCA, Pop Warner Football, the Police Athletic League, the National Recreation & Parks Association, Boys & Girls Clubs, the Amateur Athletic Union, and the Jewish Community Center.

Another beneficiary of the fund was the NFL Community Football Fields initiative, which provided more than $1 million to help nonprofit neighborhood-based organizations improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local football fields in schools and parks.

The fund also supports projects such as the NFL Teacher of the Year and NFL High School Coach of the Year programs.

Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Association, explained the philosophy behind the fund: "The only way to preserve the character and integrity of the game is to invest in those who will one day play it."

1998 NFL NEWSMAKERS

RICK KOLODZIEJ
RED McCOMBS

• Red McCombs, a Texas businessman and former owner of the NBA's San Antonio Spurs and Denver Nuggets, became the new owner of the Minnesota Vikings, who promptly rewarded him by winning their first NFC Central Division crown since 1994.

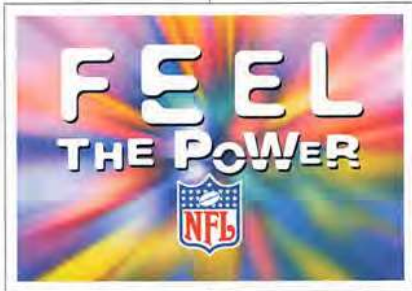
• Al Lerner received unanimous approval as new owner of the Cleveland Browns, who begin play as members of the AFC Central in 1999. Former San Francisco 49ers president Carmen Policy, who is a minority owner of the Browns' was named president and CEO of the expansion team.

• Under the guidance of Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, the NFL signed the most lucrative television contract in sports history—an eight-year package with ABC, CBS, ESPN, and FOX than runs through 2005.

• The Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Raymond James Stadium) and Baltimore Ravens (NFL Stadium at Camden Yards) moved into new quarters, and voters approved a referendum for funding a new stadium in Denver.

MILLIONS OF TV VIEWERS ARE INVITED TO 'FEEL THE POWER'

Do you Feel the Power? Millions of television viewers did during the 1998 season, thanks to an inspired series of commercial spots designed to capture the moods, sights, and sounds of NFL competition.



The campaign featured the varied talents of an eclectic group of personalities. Included were classic excerpts of dramatic narration by the late John Facenda, best known for his work for NFL Films; a colorful tribute to Pittsburgh running back Jerome Bettis, better known as "The Bus;" a thoughtful remembrance by Kansas City linebacker Derrick Thomas of his father, Robert, whose plane was shot down in the Vietnam War; and a lighthearted look at hefty Green Bay defensive tackle Gilbert Brown, a pudgy youngster who grew up to become a star for a Super Bowl champion.

Produced by NFL Properties, the Feel the Power segments comprised one of four campaigns aired in 1998 on ABC, CBS, ESPN, and FOX. Also appearing were "Magic Moments," in which on-field cameras provide a close-up look at the NFL; "Play Football," which shows youngsters the joys of the game; and "Get in Gear," for NFL apparel.

CHASE

How Chase's corporate finance expertise operates with surgical precision for ConMed.

In 1973, ConMed opened its doors on an upper floor of a Utica office building with a staff of three and one salesman. Today the company owns the building, employs more than 2,200 people and has a domestic sales force of 210.

TOM SEAVER'S BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

Eugene Corasanti
CEO/President and
Robert D. Shallish, Jr.
Vice President/Finance
ConMed Corporation

From the start, ConMed has been a leader in medical technology, setting standards around the world. Specializing in electrosurgical products – using high frequency electrical current instead of a blade – miniature surgical implements for arthroscopy and other procedures, patient care products, and one-use ECG products, ConMed delivers innovative, high quality, cost-effective solutions.

It's a success story built on strategic acquisitions. And "Chase has been a true partner in financing and structuring every one of them," says President and CEO Eugene Corasanti. "Chase's corporate finance people understand the bidding process. Their quick turnaround improves our bargaining position." And, Chase's Relationship Manager marshals the bank's resources through one point of contact, so dealing with the bank is a seamless process – from corporate finance to letters of credit to foreign exchange.

If you could use a steady hand and an experienced eye in corporate finance, call Chase. We're just what the doctor ordered for business growth.

CHASE. The right relationship is everything.℠

Eugene Corasanti
CEO/President and
Robert D. Shallish, Jr.
Vice President - Finance
ConMed Corporation

Tom Seaver,
Baseball Hall of Famer
and Chase Middle Market
Spokesperson

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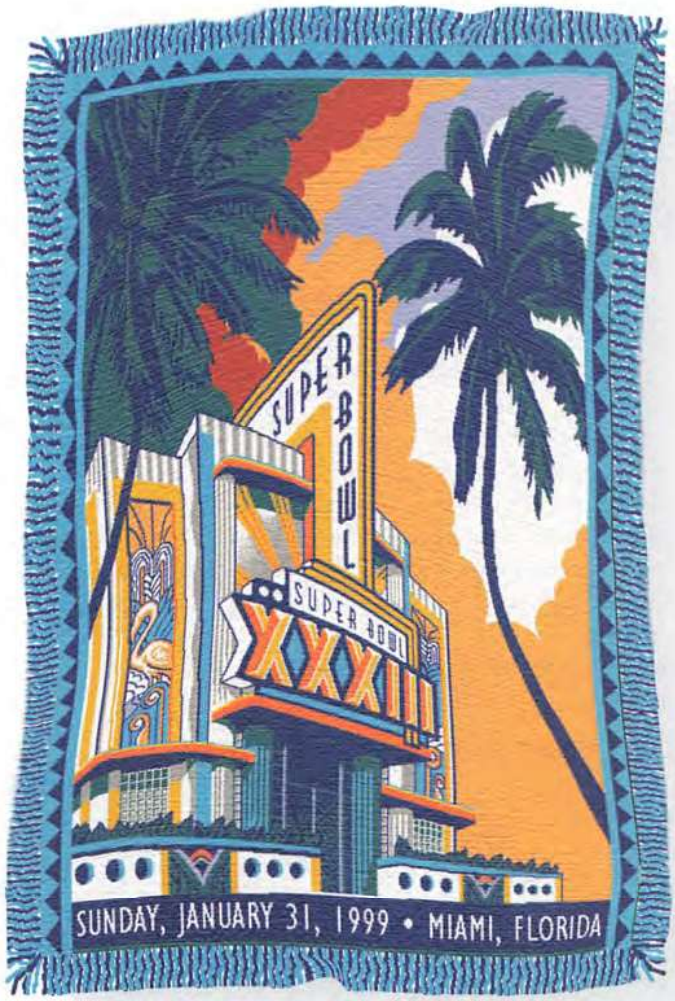
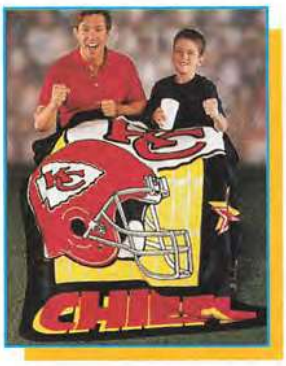


RINGTHEBELL77 on Archive.org



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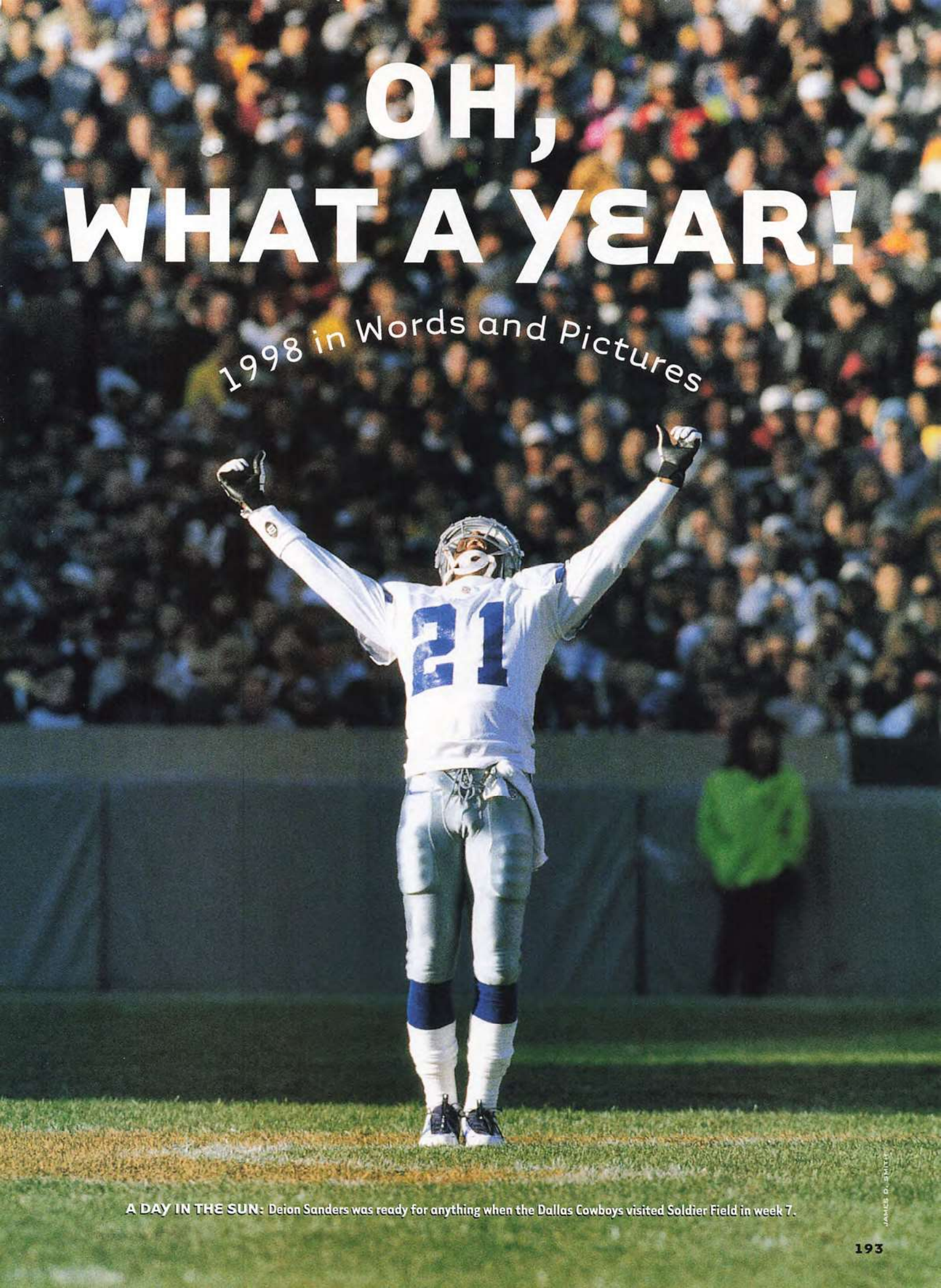
OH, WHAT A YEAR!

1998 in Words and Pictures



A DAY IN THE SUN: Deion Sanders was ready for anything when the Dallas Cowboys visited Soldier Field in week 7.

JAMES D. SMITH

FALCONS' PREY: Steve Young received a rough greeting from Atlanta linebacker Jessie Tuggle, but he still passed for 3 touchdowns in week 2.

KEVIN TERRELL/NFLP

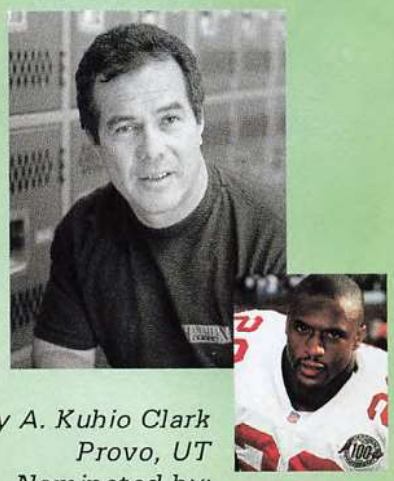
HATS OFF: Chiefs safety Reggie Tongue made a lasting impression on Chargers running back Kenny Bynum in an AFC West collision in week 12.

THEARON HENDERSON

what is a COACH?

They are leaders. And motivators.
Father figures for some.
They bring out the best in you.
And show you what it takes to succeed.

Coach of the Year



Gary A. Kuhio Clark
Provo, UT
Nominated by:
Adrian Murrell,
Arizona Cardinals

Finalist

Len Corto
New Britain, CT
Nominated by:
David Widell,
Atlanta Falcons

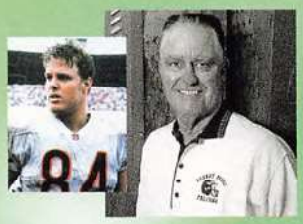
Finalist

Steve Hardin
Springfield, FL
Nominated by:
Kevin Carter,
St. Louis Rams

RINGTHEBELL.com on Archive.org

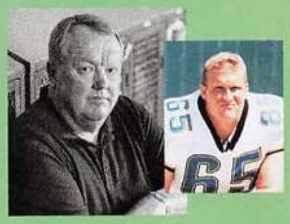
In appreciation of all they do in shaping the lives of young people, the NFL salutes football coaches across the country. The NFL's High School Football Coach of the Year Program proudly honors those whose motivation has helped make dreams come true.

Finalist



Ed Burke
San Diego, CA
Nominated by:
John Allred,
Chicago Bears

Finalist



John Stineman
Utica, NE
Nominated by:
Quentin Neujahr,
Jacksonville Jaguars

The NFL High School Football Coach of the Year Program

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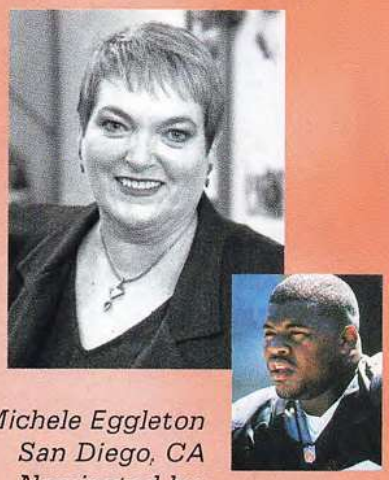
what is a TEACHER?

Everyone remembers their inspiration.
That one person who taught you how to learn.
How to think for yourself.
And how to make the most out of what you've got.

Teacher of the Year

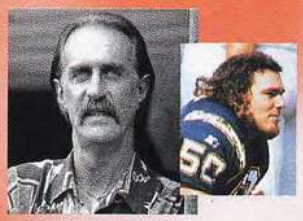


Michele Eggleton
San Diego, CA
Nominated by:
Darrell Russell,
Oakland Raiders

September

Diana Kelting
Manitou Springs, CO
Nominated by:
Justin Armour,
Denver Broncos

October

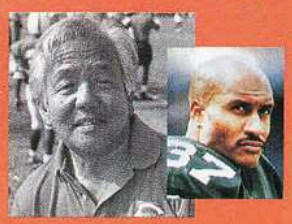


Jim Waller
Foster City, CA
Nominated by:
David Binn,
San Diego Chargers

November

Tony Kiszonas
Brussels, WI
Nominated by:
Jim Flanigan,
Chicago Bears

December



Tom Nakayama
Gardena, CA
Nominated by:
Carnell Lake,
Pittsburgh Steelers

Now in its ninth year, the NFL's Teacher of the Year Program proudly honors the teachers who challenged our players in their youth, and who continue to be an inspiration to them today.

The NFL Teacher of the Year Program

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TOP PERFORMANCES

TROY AIKMAN

Troy Aikman rushed for 2 touchdowns for the first time in his career and also passed for 2 touchdowns in the Cowboys' 38-10 rout of Arizona. **Derrick Thomas**, who holds the NFL single-game record with 7 sacks, had 6 sacks as the Chiefs overwhelmed Oakland 28-8. **Joey Galloway** caught 6 passes for 142 yards, including touchdowns of 25 and 35 yards, to help Seattle blast Philadelphia 38-0. Warren Moon passed for 3 touchdowns for the Seahawks.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

After Cincinnati's **Corey Dillon** burned Tennessee for a rookie-record 246 yards and 4 touchdowns in a 41-14 victory in 1997, the Oilers' defense vowed revenge. Dillon managed 87 yards and a touchdown on Kickoff Weekend, but Tennessee won 23-14...Heavily favored Jacksonville nearly was ambushed in Chicago, but the Jaguars escaped with a 24-23 victory when **Mark Brunell** threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to **Jimmy Smith** with 29 seconds left...Green Bay extended one streak and snapped another in its 38-19 victory over Detroit. The Packers won their twenty-fourth consecutive regular-season game at Lambeau Field and stopped **Barry Sanders's** string of consecutive 100-yard rushing games at 14 (he had 70 yards).

SCORES

AFC
Denver 27, New England 21
Kansas City 28, Oakland 8
Miami 24, **Indianapolis** 15
Pittsburgh 20, **Baltimore** 13
San Diego 16, Buffalo 14
Tennessee 23, **Cincinnati** 14

NFC
Atlanta 19, **Carolina** 14
Dallas 38, Arizona 10
Green Bay 38, Detroit 19
Minnesota 31, Tampa Bay 7
New Orleans 24, **St. Louis** 17
N.Y. Giants 31, Washington 24

Interconference
Jacksonville 24, **Chicago** 23
San Francisco 36, N.Y. Jets 30 (OT)
Seattle 38, **Philadelphia** 0
(Home teams in bold)

BIG GAMES

Déjà Vu in Denver on Kickoff '98

Denver opened defense of its Super Bowl title with a 27-21 victory over New England on Monday night.

Broncos quarterback John Elway completed 22 of 34 passes for 257 yards and 1 touchdown. Running back Terrell Davis, the most valuable player of Super Bowl XXXII, rushed for 75 yards and 2 touchdowns. His 9-yard touchdown run gave Denver a 17-0 lead in the second quarter, and his 1-yard touchdown run secured the victory in the fourth period.

Denver led the NFL in total offense in 1997, and it got off to a quick start in 1998 when Elway completed a 44-yard pass to Ed McCaffrey on the first play of the game. That led to Jason Elam's 53-yard field goal, and the Broncos never trailed.

GREG TROTT

GARRISON HEARST

GOLDEN GAIT

Running back Garrison Hearst gave San Francisco a dramatic 36-30 victory over the New York Jets when he ran 96 yards for a touchdown 4:08 into overtime.

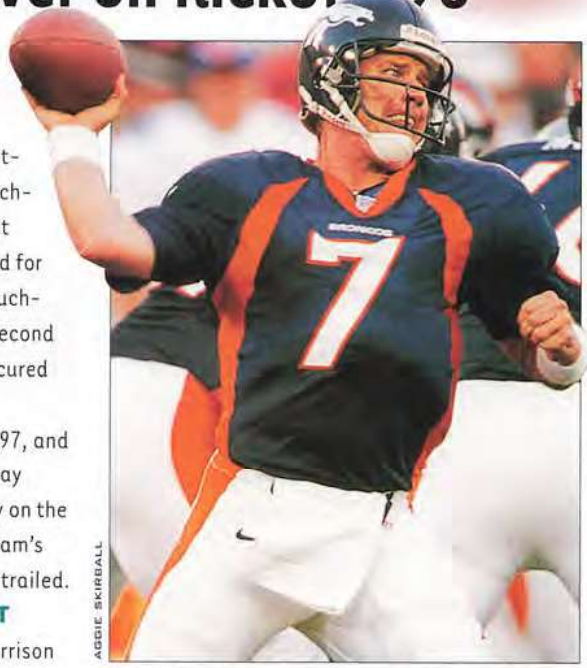
The winning run capped a wild game that featured five lead changes, 1,022 total yards, and big passing games from Jets quarterback Glenn Foley (415 yards and 3 touchdowns) and 49ers quarterback Steve Young (363 yards and 3 touchdowns).

Hearst's run was the longest in 49ers' history. He finished with 187 yards and 2 touchdowns on 20 carries.

HE SAID IT

DAVID STLUKA

Packers coach Mike Holmgren, on running back Dorsey Levens, who played considerably against Detroit despite missing almost all of training camp in a contract dispute: "Dorsey and I had an agreement. When he got tired, he had to look over at me, and I would tell him whether I cared or not."



AGGIE SKIRBALL

Quarterback John Elway and the defending Super Bowl-champion Broncos got off to a good start.

PRECOCIOUS PASSERS

Indianapolis's Peyton Manning and San Diego's Ryan Leaf, the top two picks in the 1998 draft, began their NFL careers with mixed results.

Manning passed for 302 yards and a touchdown against Miami. But he also suffered 3 interceptions in the Colts' 24-15 loss to the Dolphins.

Leaf passed for 192 yards and 1 touchdown, with 2 interceptions, in the Chargers' 16-14 victory over Buffalo.

VIKINGS PASS FIRST TEST

Minnesota wasted little time in its opener, jumping to a 21-0 first-half lead and cruising to a 31-7 victory over Tampa Bay.

The Vikings exhibited a quick-strike offense: Their 4 touchdown drives averaged just 2 minutes 26 seconds. Quarterback Brad Johnson completed 15 of 25 passes for a modest 189 yards, but threw touchdown passes of 48 and 31 yards to rookie first-round draft pick Randy Moss and 1 and 18 yards to Cris Carter.

WEEK 1 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Miami	1	0	0	Jacksonville	1	0	0	Denver	1	0	0	Dallas	1	0	0	Green Bay	1	0	0	Atlanta	1	0	0
Buffalo	0	1	0	Pittsburgh	1	0	0	Kansas City	1	0	0	N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	Minnesota	1	0	0	New Orleans	1	0	0
Indianapolis	0	1	0	Tennessee	1	0	0	San Diego	1	0	0	Arizona	0	1	0	Chicago	0	1	0	San Francisco	1	0	0
New England	0	1	0	Baltimore	0	1	0	Seattle	1	0	0	Philadelphia	0	1	0	Detroit	0	1	0	Carolina	0	1	0
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0	Cincinnati	0	1	0	Oakland	0	1	0	Washington	0	1	0	Tampa Bay	0	1	0	St. Louis	0	1	0

BIG GAMES

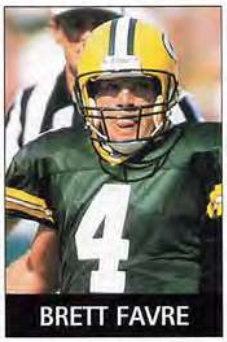
Jaguars Silence the Chiefs' Rush

James Stewart ran for 103 yards and a touchdown as Jacksonville beat Kansas City 21-16 in a battle of AFC heavyweights.

The Chiefs' defense had 10 sacks in an opening-game victory over Oakland a week earlier. But Kansas City's pass rush was not a factor against the Jaguars, who took an early lead on Reggie Barlow's 85-yard punt return for a touchdown, then kept the ball on the ground most of the game.

Jacksonville quarterback Mark Brunell attempted only 18 passes, completing 11 for 126 yards, including a 17-yard touchdown to Jimmy Smith for a 14-0 lead in the second quarter.

Stewart's 1-yard touchdown run 3:08 into the second half made it 21-6, and Jacksonville held on for the victory.



CHRIS COVATTA

BRETT FAVRE

BAY WATCH

Brett Favre threw 2 touchdown passes, Ryan Longwell kicked 3 field goals, and Green Bay continued its mastery over Tampa Bay with a 23-15 victory at Lambeau Field.

The game was not as close as the final score suggests. The Packers built a 16-point advantage at halftime and led 23-0 in the fourth quarter.

Green Bay's sixth consecutive victory over the Buccaneers was temperec by an injury to running back Dorsey Levens, who broke a bone in his right leg and was expected to be out 4-6 weeks.

GREG CRISP

Running back James (Little Man) Stewart had a big hand in the Jaguars' victory over the Chiefs.

HALF FULL

Terrell Davis rushed for 191 yards and 3 touchdowns and the Broncos maximized their opportunities in the first half of a 42-23 rout of Dallas.

Denver scored touchdowns on all five of its possessions in the first half to build a 35-17 lead at the intermission, prompting quarterback John Elway to call it the "best half I've ever been involved with." The Broncos' touchdown drives covered 84, 80, 59, 80, and 80 yards.

Dallas suffered a major blow when quarterback Troy Aikman broke his collarbone while scrambling in the second quarter. He was expected to miss at least four weeks.

IT'S SPRINGS AGAIN

Shawn Springs and Willie Williams returned interceptions for touchdowns to lead the Seahawks to a 33-14 rout of Arizona.

Springs also had an interception return for a touchdown in the Seahawks' 38-0 shutout of Philadelphia on Kickoff Weekend.

ROOKIE WATCH

GREG CRISP

Tavian Banks had a reputation for making big plays at Iowa. Sunday, the Jaguars' fourth-round draft choice made his first big play in the NFL, returning the second-half kickoff 65 yards to set up the decisive touchdown in Jacksonville's victory over Kansas City.

TOP PERFORMANCES

STEVE YOUNG

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

Steve Young passed for 3 touchdowns and ran for another to key the 49ers' 45-10 rout of Washington.

Corey Sawyer returned an interception 53 yards for a touchdown in overtime to give Cincinnati a 34-28 victory over Detroit. That offset a 185-yard, 3-touchdown rushing day by the Lions' Barry Sanders.

Reggie White had 3 sacks in Green Bay's victory over Tampa Bay. It was his first 3-sack game since Super Bowl XXXI.

Rod Woodson had 2 interceptions, 1 of which he returned 60 yards for a touchdown, in the Ravens' 24-10 victory over the Jets.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

The Falcons, who closed the 1997 season by winning six of eight games, have picked up where they left off. Their 17-12 victory over Philadelphia gave them a 2-0 start for the first time since 1986...Surprising San Diego also improved to 2-0, spoiling the Oilers' debut in Nashville with a 13-7 victory...Minnesota held on to beat St. Louis 38-31 when the Vikings stopped Rams quarterback Tony Banks a few inches from the goal line as time ran out. But Minnesota lost quarterback Brad Johnson for at least four weeks with a broken fibula in his right leg...At week's end, a whopping 22 teams, including all but two in the NFC, stood either 2-0 or 0-2.

SCORES

AFC
Baltimore 24, **N.Y. Jets** 10
Jacksonville 21, Kansas City 16
Miami 13, Buffalo 7
New England 29, Indianapolis 6
San Diego 13, **Tennessee** 7

NFC
Atlanta 17, Philadelphia 12
Green Bay 23, Tampa Bay 15
Minnesota 38, **St. Louis** 31
New Orleans 19, Carolina 14
San Francisco 45, **Washington** 10

Interconference
Cincinnati 34, **Detroit** 28 (OT)
Denver 42, Dallas 23
Oakland 20, N.Y. Giants 17
Pittsburgh 17, Chicago 12
Seattle 33, Arizona 14
(Home teams in bold)

WEEK 2 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Miami	2	0	0	Jacksonville	2	0	0	Denver	2	0	0	Dallas	1	1	0	Green Bay	2	0	0	Atlanta	2	0	0
New England	1	1	0	Pittsburgh	2	0	0	San Diego	2	0	0	N.Y. Giants	1	1	0	Minnesota	2	0	0	New Orleans	2	0	0
Buffalo	0	2	0	Baltimore	1	1	0	Seattle	2	0	0	Arizona	0	2	0	Chicago	0	2	0	San Francisco	2	0	0
Indianapolis	0	2	0	Cincinnati	1	1	0	Kansas City	1	1	0	Philadelphia	0	2	0	Detroit	0	2	0	Carolina	0	2	0
N.Y. Jets	0	2	0	Tennessee	1	1	0	Oakland	1	1	0	Washington	0	2	0	Tampa Bay	0	2	0	St. Louis	0	2	0

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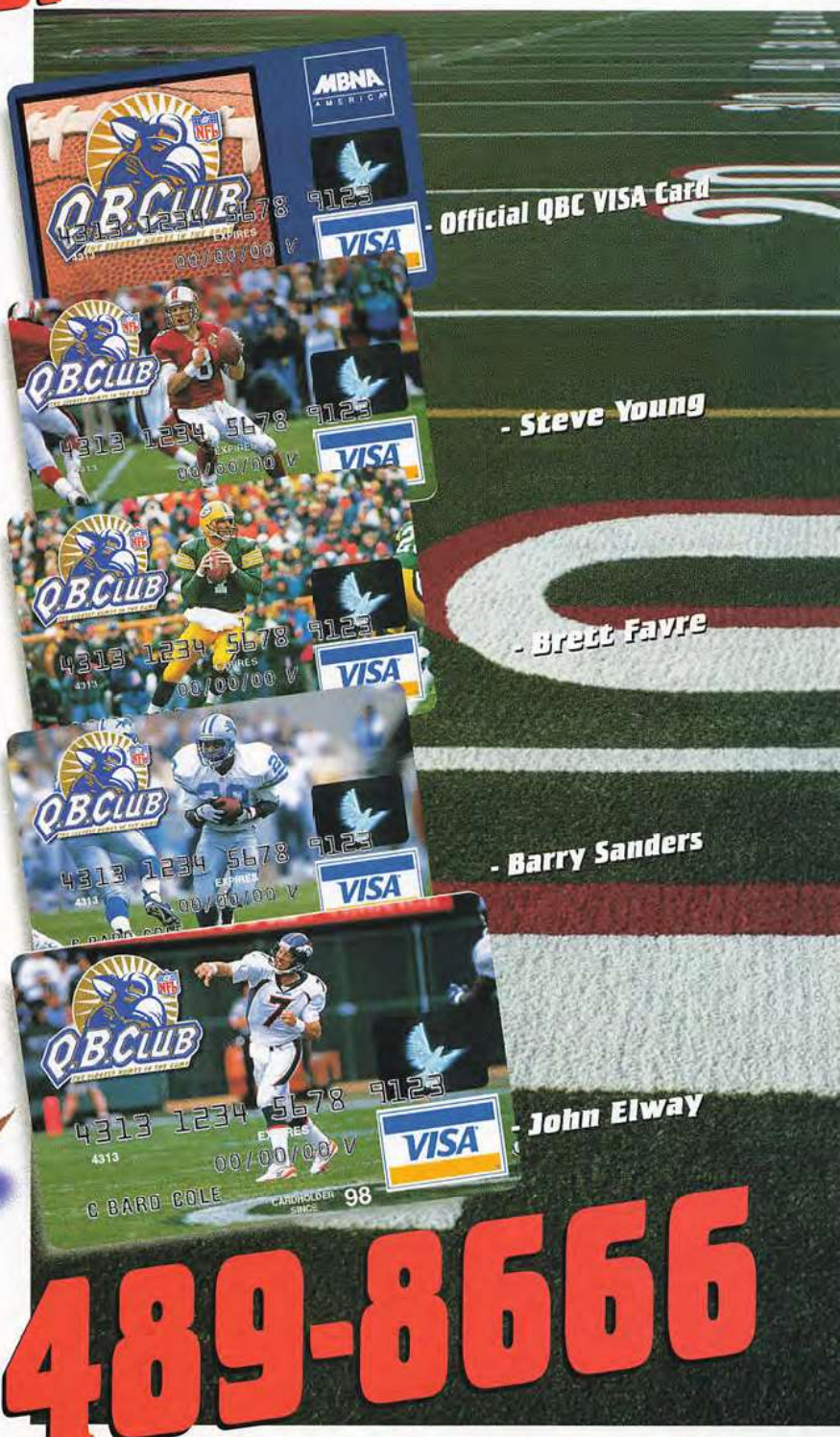

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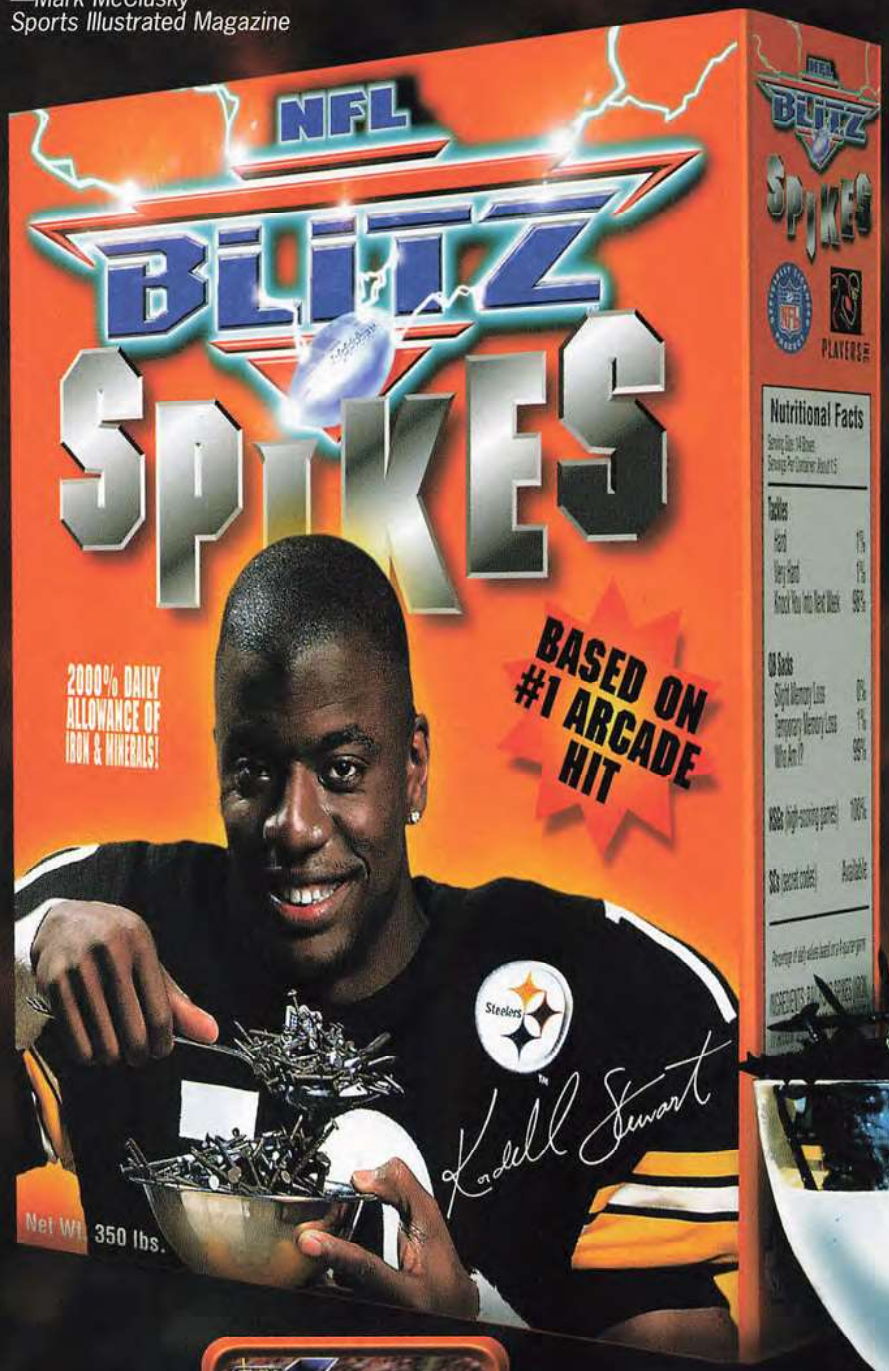

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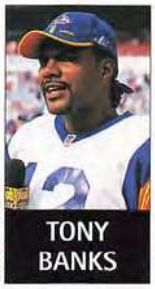
TOP PERFORMANCES


TONY BANKS

Vinny Testaverde started in place of injured Glenn Foley and threw 4 touchdown passes in the New York Jets' 44-6 rout of Indianapolis.

Fred Taylor, a rookie running back for the Jaguars, took over when James Stewart injured his knee in the first quarter of Jacksonville's 24-10 victory over Baltimore. Taylor ran 52 yards for a touchdown on his first carry, and finished with 128 yards rushing and 213 yards from scrimmage.

Tony Banks passed for 235 yards and 1 touchdown and ran 2 yards for the winning touchdown with 11 seconds left in the Rams' 34-33 victory over Buffalo. In week 2, Banks was stopped inside the 1-yard line as time ran out against the Vikings.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Seattle won its third consecutive game and handed Washington its third consecutive defeat 24-14. **Steve Broussard** returned the opening kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown to ignite the Seahawks... Green Bay's offense managed only 1 touchdown, but the Packers' defense limited Cincinnati to only 28 yards rushing and 160 total yards in a 13-6 victory... Arizona defeated Philadelphia 17-3 in a game in which neither team scored until the fourth quarter. It marked the first time in 10 years that an NFL game was scoreless through three periods.

SCORES

AFC
Denver 34, **Oakland** 17
Jacksonville 24, Baltimore 10
Kansas City 23, San Diego 7
Miami 21, Pittsburgh 0
New England 27, Tennessee 16
N.Y. Jets 44, Indianapolis 6

NFC
Arizona 17, Philadelphia 3
Dallas 31, **N.Y. Giants** 7
Minnesota 29, Detroit 6
Tampa Bay 27, Chicago 15

Interconference
Green Bay 13, **Cincinnati** 6
St. Louis 34, **Buffalo** 33
Seattle 24, Washington 14
(Home teams in bold)

BIG GAMES

Prime Time Stars on Monday Night

Deion Sanders scored 2 touchdowns and set up another to lead Dallas to a 31-7 rout of the New York Giants on Monday night.

Sanders made big plays on offense, defense, and special teams. He opened the scoring with a 59-yard punt return for a touchdown in the second quarter and closed it with a 71-yard interception return for a touchdown early in the fourth period. In the third quarter, he caught a 55-yard pass from Jason Garrett to set up Sherman Williams's 18-yard touchdown run.

The Cowboys moved into first place in the NFC East by snapping New York's nine-game unbeaten string against division foes.

MIAMI VISE

Miami intercepted 3 passes, 1 of which linebacker Zach Thomas returned 17 yards for a touchdown, and recorded its first shutout in six years with a 21-0 victory over Pittsburgh.

The Dolphins shut down the Steelers' offense, allowing only 200 total yards and limiting quarterback Kordell Stewart to 11 completions in 35 attempts for 82 yards.

Miami improved its record to 3-0. The Dolphins allowed a league-low 22 points in their victories.

SLIPPERY WHEN WET

Kansas City pounded San Diego 23-7 in a steady rain that hampered offenses and made ball handling difficult.

The conditions contributed to a long day for Chargers rookie quarterback Ryan Leaf. Leaf completed a 4-yard pass to tight end Freddie Jones on the game's first play, then did not complete another pass in a 1-for-15 performance.

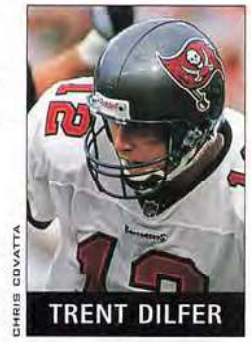
RALPH WAGLAWICZ

Deion Sanders showcased his versatility, and the Cowboys moved into first place in the NFC East.

HOMECOMING GAME

Road-weary Tampa Bay rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit to beat Chicago 27-15 in the inaugural game at Raymond James Stadium.

The Buccaneers, who played seven consecutive games on the road (including postseason and preseason) as their new stadium was completed, finally came home in week 3, only to fall behind 15-0 in the first two quarters. But Trent Dilfer passed for 2 touchdowns in the third quarter and Warrick Dunn and Mike Alstott ran for touchdowns in the fourth quarter.


CHRIS COVATTA
TRENT DILFER

The Bears lost their third consecutive game to an opponent who made the playoffs in 1997. They led at halftime of each game.

MILESTONES

MARK BRETTINGEN

Gary Anderson had 17 points in Minnesota's 29-6 victory over Detroit to move into second place on the NFL's all-time scoring list. Anderson, 39, had 5 field goals and 2 extra points against the Lions and was at 1,713 points at week's end. George Blanda had 2,002 points in his 26-year career.

WEEK 3 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	3	0	0
New England	2	1	0
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0
Buffalo	0	3	0
Indianapolis	0	3	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	3	0	0
Pittsburgh	2	1	0
Baltimore	1	2	0
Cincinnati	1	2	0
Tennessee	1	2	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	3	0	0
Seattle	3	0	0
Kansas City	2	1	0
San Diego	2	1	0
Oakland	1	2	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	2	1	0
Arizona	1	2	0
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0
Philadelphia	0	3	0
Washington	0	3	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	3	0	0
Minnesota	3	0	0
Tampa Bay	1	2	0
Chicago	0	3	0
Detroit	0	3	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Atlanta	2	0	0
New Orleans	2	0	0
San Francisco	2	0	0
St. Louis	1	2	0
Carolina	0	2	0

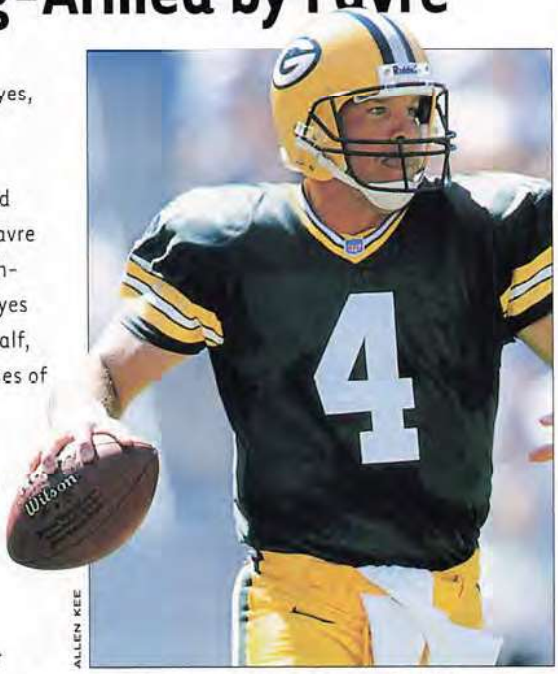
BIG GAMES

Panthers Strong-Armed by Favre

Brett Favre passed for 388 yards and 5 touchdowns, including 3 to Derrick Mayes, as the Packers withstood a challenge from Carolina 37-30.

The winless Panthers jumped to a 10-0 lead before the game was five minutes old, but Favre pulled Green Bay even by halftime with touchdown passes to Mark Chmura (25 yards), Mayes (21), and Tyrone Davis (20). In the second half, Favre and Mayes teamed on touchdown passes of 4 and 33 yards.

Carolina had a chance to tie after driving from its 35-yard line to the Packers' 5-yard line with two seconds left, but Kerry Collins's pass into the end zone was incomplete on the game's last play.



ALLEN KEE

Brett Favre equalled a club record with 5 touchdown passes in the Packers' victory over Carolina.

SAINTS BE PRAISED

Seven NFL teams were undefeated after four weeks, none more surprising than the Saints. New Orleans improved its record to 3-0 with a 19-13 overtime victory at Indianapolis.

The Saints trailed 13-6 and faced fourth-and-17 from their 41-yard line in the final minute of regulation when quarterback Danny Wuerffel launched a 44-yard pass to former Colts receiver Sean Dawkins. One play later, Wuerffel teamed with Andre Hastings on a 15-yard touchdown pass that tied the score.

In overtime, Tyronne Drakeford's interception and 23-yard return set up Wuerffel's winning 33-yard touchdown pass to Cameron Cleeland.

The outcome spoiled Indianapolis coach Jim Mora's first game against the club he coached for nearly 11 seasons.

SEAHAWKS GROUNDED

Pittsburgh knocked Seattle from the unbeaten ranks with a methodical 13-10 victory .

The Steelers won by keeping the ball on the ground—thus keeping it away from the Seahawks' high-powered offense. Pittsburgh maintained possession for more than 38 minutes, and ran the ball on 45 of its 72 plays.

CRAIG MELVIN

CHRIS FUAMATU-MA'AFALA

Jerome Bettis rushed for 138 yards. Rookie running back Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala rushed 10 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter.

WHEN EAST MEETS WEST

The Giants' 34-16 victory over San Diego Sunday afternoon was the first by an NFC East team over an AFC West opponent in eight games this year.

ROOKIE WATCH

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Two rookies helped Detroit win for the first time this season. Terry Fair returned a kickoff 105 yards for a touchdown and quarterback Charlie Batch (left) ran 1 yard for his first career touchdown, leading Detroit to a 27-6 victory over Tampa Bay on Monday night.

TOP PERFORMANCES

CHRIS COVATTA

RANDALL CUNNINGHAM

Randall Cunningham passed for 4 touchdowns to rally Minnesota past Chicago 31-28.

Steve Young and Jerry Rice teamed on 2 touchdown passes, including a 66-yard strike on the game's second play, as San Francisco beat Atlanta 31-20. Young passed for 387 yards and 3 touchdowns; Rice caught 8 passes for 162 yards.

Second-year running back Priest Holmes rushed for 173 yards and 2 touchdowns in his first career start, sparking the Ravens to a 31-24 victory over the Bengals.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Denver's 38-16 victory over Washington was the Broncos' first without John Elway at quarterback in the 1990s. Bubby Brister started...The Cardinals returned to St. Louis for the first time since relocating to Arizona in 1988 and beat the Rams 20-17 on Joe Nedney's 29-yard field goal with 4:04 left...Chicago led Minnesota 21-10 at halftime, only to lose its fourth straight. The Bears, who have lost halftime leads in every game, have been outscored 44-0 this season in the third quarter...Tampa Bay's problem is slow starts: Opponents have gotten a 58-3 jump on the 1-3 Buccaneers in the first half of games this year.

SCORES

AFC

Baltimore 31, Cincinnati 24
Jacksonville 27, **Tennessee** 22
Pittsburgh 13, Seattle 10

NFC

Arizona 20, **St. Louis** 17
Detroit 27, Tampa Bay 6
Green Bay 37, **Carolina** 30
Minnesota 31, **Chicago** 28
San Francisco 31, Atlanta 20

Interconference

Denver 38, **Washington** 16
Kansas City 24, **Philadelphia** 21
New Orleans 19, **Indianapolis** 13 (OT)
N.Y. Giants 34, **San Diego** 16
Oakland 13, **Dallas** 12
(Home teams in bold)

WEEK 4 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	3	0	0
New England	2	1	0
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0
Buffalo	0	3	0
Indianapolis	0	4	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	4	0	0
Pittsburgh	3	1	0
Baltimore	2	2	0
Cincinnati	1	3	0
Tennessee	1	3	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	4	0	0
Kansas City	3	1	0
Seattle	3	1	0
Oakland	2	2	0
San Diego	2	2	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Arizona	2	2	0
Dallas	2	2	0
N.Y. Giants	2	2	0
Philadelphia	0	4	0
Washington	0	4	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	4	0	0
Minnesota	4	0	0
Detroit	1	3	0
Tampa Bay	1	3	0
Chicago	0	4	0

NFC West	W	L	T
New Orleans	3	0	0
San Francisco	3	0	0
Atlanta	2	1	0
St. Louis	1	3	0
Carolina	0	3	0

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——— Do they look like a winner?

— Are they a close knit group?

——— Are they made of durable fabric that binds them together?

— Do they come in fashion colors?

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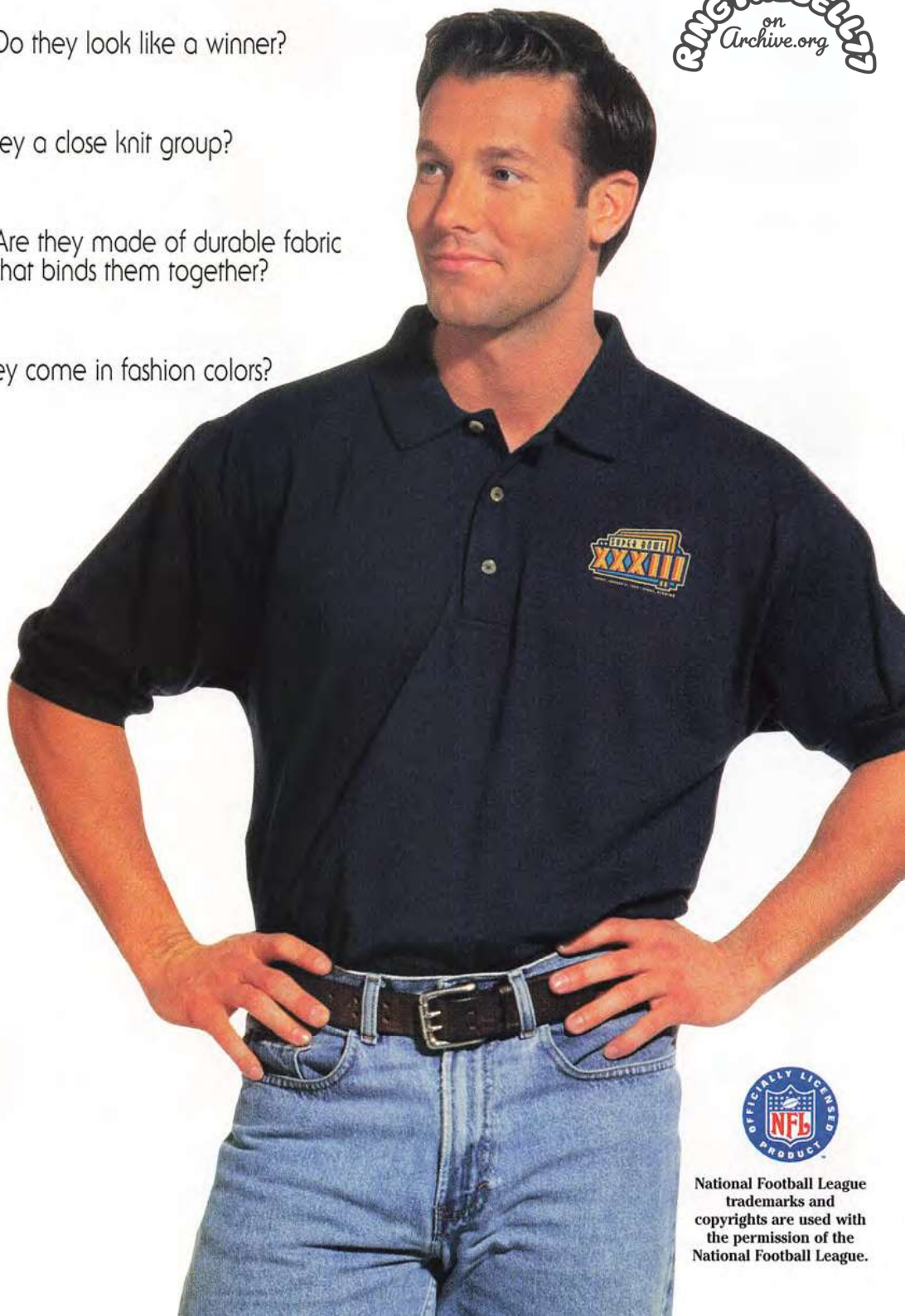

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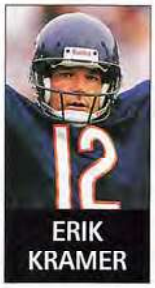
TOP PERFORMANCES



The Jets' defense limited **Dan Marino** to 13 completions in 31 attempts for 121 yards in New York's victory over the Dolphins. Marino's average numbers in 26 previous games against the Jets: 22 of 36 for 296 yards.

Erik Kramer completed 26 of 37 passes for 275 yards and 2 touchdowns and ran 1 yard for a touchdown with 1:50 remaining to lead the Bears past Detroit 31-27. Chicago rallied from a 27-10 fourth-quarter deficit.

Terrell Davis rushed for 168 yards and 2 touchdowns in the Broncos' 41-16 rout of Philadelphia. Davis had 8 touchdowns in the Broncos' first five games, all victories, and led the league in rushing yards (657).

AROUND THE NFL

Buffalo stunned San Francisco 26-21 in a game in which the 49ers tied an NFL record with 22 penalties...Atlanta blitzed Carolina with 3 touchdowns in a 48-second span of the third quarter of its 51-23 victory...At New England, the Patriots handed New Orleans its first defeat, beating the Saints 30-27 on **Adam Vinatieri's** 27-yard field goal with three seconds left...

Peyton Manning's Colts defeated **Ryan Leaf's** Chargers 17-12 in the first regular-season meeting between the top two selections of the 1998 draft...AFC teams won all four interconference games in week 5, raising their record to 15-5 against NFC teams this season.

SCORES

AFC
Indianapolis 17, San Diego 12
Kansas City 17, Seattle 6
N.Y. Jets 20, Miami 9

NFC
Atlanta 51, Carolina 23
Chicago 31, Detroit 27
Dallas 31, **Washington** 10
Minnesota 37, **Green Bay** 24
Tampa Bay 20, N.Y. Giants 3

Interconference
Buffalo 26, San Francisco 21
Denver 41, Philadelphia 16
New England 30, **New Orleans** 27
Oakland 23, **Arizona** 20
(Home teams in bold)

BIG GAMES

Vikings End Packers' Home Streak

Randall Cunningham passed for 442 yards and 4 touchdowns and Minnesota moved into first place in the NFC Central with a convincing 37-24 victory at Green Bay on Monday night. The upset snapped the Packers' 29-game winning streak (including postseason) at Lambeau Field.

Cunningham, starting in place of injured Brad Johnson, passed for 3 touchdowns in the second quarter to break open the game between two 4-0 teams. His 52-yard bomb to rookie Randy Moss snapped a 10-10 tie, giving Minnesota the lead for good 9:56 before halftime.

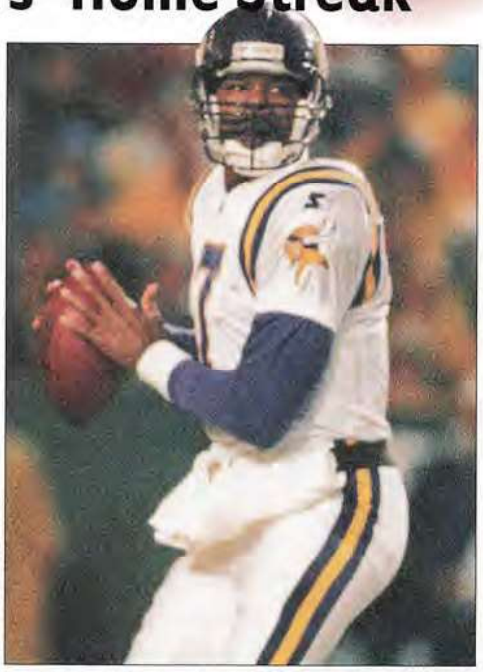
The Vikings' offensive statistics were staggering. Moss, who also caught a 44-yard touchdown pass to make the score 37-10 early in the fourth quarter, had 5 receptions for 190 yards. Cris Carter caught 8 passes for 119 yards, and Minnesota amassed 545 yards against a defense that entered the game ranked number one in the NFL.

JIM TURNER
KEYSHAWN JOHNSON

Cunningham's 442 passing yards were the most ever against Green Bay, which lost at home for the first time since opening weekend, 1995.

CHIEFS WEATHER STORM, SEAHAWKS

Quarterback Rich Gannon ran for 1 touchdown and passed for another as Kansas City defeated Seattle 17-6 in a game that was halted in the second quarter for 54 minutes when a severe storm passed over Arrowhead Stadium.


RICK KOLODZIEJ

Randall Cunningham helped Minnesota amass staggering statistics in a victory over Green Bay.

The game was tied 3-3 with seven minutes left in the first half when lightning and heavy rains forced players to the locker rooms and sent fans scurrying for cover.

When play resumed, Gannon gave the Chiefs the lead for good with a 4-yard touchdown run 13 seconds before halftime. His 80-yard touchdown pass to Andre Rison in the final minute of the third quarter secured the victory.

JETS' PROPELLER

Vinny Testaverde's 10-yard touchdown pass to Keyshawn Johnson ignited the Jets to a 20-9 victory over the Dolphins.

Testaverde's touchdown pass 5:29 into the second quarter gave New York a 7-3 lead, an advantage it would not relinquish.

The Jets won by limiting Miami to 153 total yards, a large chunk of which came on the Dolphins' 74-yard touchdown drive midway through the fourth quarter. By that time, New York had built a 17-3 lead.

MILESTONES

AL PEREIRA

Jets running back Keith Byars (left) caught 6 passes in New York's victory over Miami. He has 593 receptions in his 13-year career, more than any other running back in NFL history (recently retired Marcus Allen previously held the distinction with 587 catches).

WEEK 5 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	3	1	0
New England	3	1	0
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0
Buffalo	1	3	0
Indianapolis	1	4	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	4	0	0
Pittsburgh	3	1	0
Baltimore	2	2	0
Cincinnati	1	3	0
Tennessee	1	3	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	5	0	0
Kansas City	4	1	0
Oakland	3	2	0
Seattle	3	2	0
San Diego	2	3	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	3	2	0
Arizona	2	3	0
N.Y. Giants	2	3	0
Philadelphia	0	5	0
Washington	0	5	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Minnesota	5	0	0
Green Bay	4	1	0
Tampa Bay	2	3	0
Chicago	1	4	0
Detroit	1	4	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Atlanta	3	1	0
New Orleans	3	1	0
San Francisco	3	1	0
St. Louis	1	3	0
Carolina	0	4	0

BIG GAMES

Sweet Revenge for Reeves, O'Donnell

Atlanta beat the Giants 34-20 in coach Dan Reeves's first game against his former team since he was dismissed after the 1996 season.

The Falcons led 14-13 at halftime, then broke open the game by scoring on their next four possessions. Chris Chandler's 55-yard touchdown pass to Terance Mathis was the biggest blow.

Reeves, who took over a 6-10 team in New York and led it to the playoffs his first year, saw his Falcons improve to 4-1, equaling the best start in club history.

In Cincinnati, Neil O'Donnell's 25-yard touchdown pass to Carl Pickens with 20 seconds remaining lifted the Bengals to a 25-20 victory over Pittsburgh.

O'Donnell, who led the Steelers to the AFC championship in 1995 before leaving as a free agent, teamed with Pickens for a 50-yard completion on fourth-and-12 three plays earlier. He completed 20 of 26 passes for 298 yards and 3 touchdowns.

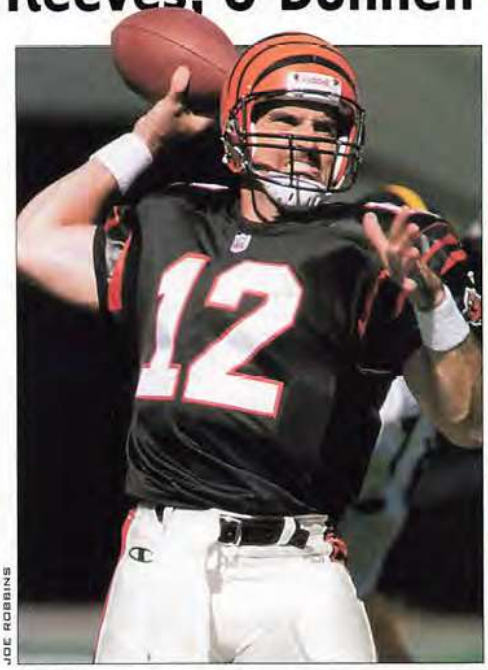
BAKKE/CLARKSON & ASSOC.

TERRELL DAVIS

ROAD TESTED

Terrell Davis rushed for 208 yards and a touchdown, and the Broncos withstood their toughest challenge of the season to defeat the Seahawks 21-16 in Seattle.

Denver, which became only the third defending Super Bowl champion to start a season 6-0, led 21-10 after Davis's 2-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter.



JOE ROBBINS

Neil O'Donnell beat his former teammates with 3 touchdown passes, the last with 20 seconds left.

The host Seahawks closed within five points, then were driving late in the game when linebacker Glenn Cadrez intercepted a pass at the Broncos' 18 to end the threat. Davis's 70-yard run three plays later enabled Denver to run out the clock.

JAGUARS' STATE

Mark Brunell and Keenan McCardell teamed on a pair of touchdown passes in the fourth quarter to lift the Jaguars to a 28-21 victory over Miami in the first game ever played between the Florida teams.

Miami rallied from a 14-0 first-half deficit to take a 21-14 lead. But Jacksonville tied the game when Brunell threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to McCardell with 11:55 left. Olindo Mare missed a 54-yard field-goal attempt on the Dolphins' next possession, and Brunell and McCardell teamed on the winning 56-yard bomb on the next play.

The Jaguars kept pace with Denver and idle Minnesota as the NFL's only unbeaten teams.

ROOKIE WATCH

PAUL JASIENSKI

New England's Robert Edwards rushed for 104 yards and scored 2 touchdowns in the Patriots' 40-10 victory over Kansas City. Edwards became the first player since the 1970 NFL-AFL merger to score touchdowns in each of his first five NFL games.

TOP PERFORMANCES

RONALD McKINNON

ALLEN KEE

Carl Pickens caught a club-record 13 passes for 204 yards in Cincinnati's upset of Pittsburgh.

Antowain Smith rushed for 130 yards and 2 touchdowns, and Doug Flutie came off the bench to pass for 2 touchdowns in the Bills' 31-24 victory over the Colts.

Ronald McKinnon, a linebacker, had 3 interceptions to key Arizona's 20-7 victory over Chicago.

Eddie George rushed for 121 yards on 30 carries as Tennessee snapped a three-game losing streak by defeating Baltimore 12-8.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

San Francisco entered its game against New Orleans with the league's lowest-ranked defense. But the 49ers limited the Saints to 167 total yards in a 31-0 rout... The Raiders punted 16 times before beating the Chargers 7-6 on Wade Wilson's 68-yard touchdown bomb to James Jett with 1:28 left...Rodney Peete ran for 1 touchdown and passed for another as Philadelphia defeated Washington 17-12 in a matchup of 0-5 teams. The Redskins' 0-6 start is their worst in 37 years...Including the Rams' 30-10 rout of the Jets in week 6, NFL teams are 15-1 over the past five seasons when hosting an interconference game the week following a bye.

SCORES

AFC

Buffalo 31, **Indianapolis** 24
Cincinnati 25, Pittsburgh 20
Denver 21, **Seattle** 16
Jacksonville 28, Miami 21
New England 40, Kansas City 10
Oakland 7, San Diego 6
Tennessee 12, **Baltimore** 8

NFC

Arizona 20, Chicago 7
Atlanta 34, **N.Y. Giants** 20
Dallas 27, Carolina 20
Philadelphia 17, Washington 12
San Francisco 31, **New Orleans** 0

Interconference

St. Louis 30, N.Y. Jets 10

(Home teams in bold)

WEEK 6 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	4	1	0
Miami	3	2	0
Buffalo	2	3	0
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0
Indianapolis	1	5	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	5	0	0
Pittsburgh	3	2	0
Baltimore	2	3	0
Cincinnati	2	3	0
Tennessee	2	3	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	6	0	0
Kansas City	4	2	0
Oakland	4	2	0
Seattle	3	3	0
San Diego	2	4	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	4	2	0
Arizona	3	3	0
N.Y. Giants	2	4	0
Philadelphia	1	5	0
Washington	0	6	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Minnesota	5	0	0
Green Bay	4	1	0
Tampa Bay	2	3	0
Detroit	1	4	0
Chicago	1	5	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Atlanta	4	1	0
San Francisco	4	1	0
New Orleans	3	2	0
St. Louis	2	3	0
Carolina	0	5	0

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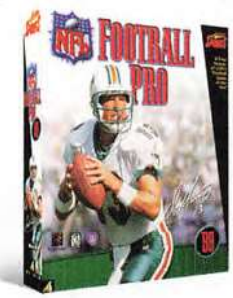

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TOP PERFORMANCES

HUGH DOUGLAS

Jamal Anderson rushed for 132 yards and a touchdown in the Falcons' victory over New Orleans.

Steve Young passed for 331 yards and 2 touchdowns in the 49ers' victory over the Colts. It was Young's NFL-record sixth consecutive 300-yard passing day.

Joe Bowden, a linebacker, had 4 tackles and scored his first career touchdown on a 12-yard fumble return to help Tennessee blast Cincinnati 44-14.

Hugh Douglas had 4½ sacks, but the Eagles lost to the Chargers 13-10 in **June Jones's** debut as San Diego's coach.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

The Bills toppled an unbeaten team for the second time in three weeks when they upset the Jaguars 17-16. Quarterback **Doug Flutie**, making his first NFL start since 1989, won it by running 1 yard for a touchdown with 13 seconds left...San Francisco averted a stunning upset by rallying from deficits of 21-0 and 31-17 (the latter in the fourth quarter) to defeat struggling Indianapolis 34-31...Miami's 14-0 victory over the Rams marked its second consecutive shutout at home...**Jeff Jaeger's** 29-yard field goal with 11 seconds left rallied Chicago past Dallas 13-12. The Bears won for the second time after trailing at halftime. They are 0-4 when leading after two quarters.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 17, Jacksonville 16
N.Y. Jets 24, **New England** 14
Pittsburgh 16, Baltimore 6
Tennessee 44, Cincinnati 14

NFC
Atlanta 31, New Orleans 23
Chicago 13, Dallas 12
Detroit 27, Green Bay 20
Minnesota 41, Washington 7
N.Y. Giants 34, Arizona 7
Tampa Bay 16, Carolina 13

Interconference
Miami 14, St. Louis 0
San Diego 13, Philadelphia 10
San Francisco 34, Indianapolis 31
(Home teams in bold)

BIG GAMES

Jets Take to the Air to Upset Patriots

Vinny Testaverde passed for 3 touchdowns, including 2 in the fourth quarter, and the Jets snapped the Patriots' four-game winning streak with a 24-14 victory in Foxboro on Monday night.

New York trailed 14-10 until Testaverde took his team on a 17-play, 80-yard drive that consumed 8:35. He capped the march with a 1-yard touchdown pass to tight end Kyle Brady that gave the Jets the lead 6:06 into the fourth quarter, and his 43-yard touchdown pass to Dedric Ward with 3:29 left clinched the victory.

Brady, who entered the game with just 7 receptions, caught 5 passes, 2 for touchdowns. Jets coach Bill Parcells beat his former team for the second time in three tries since he stepped down after taking the Patriots to the Super Bowl in the 1996 season.

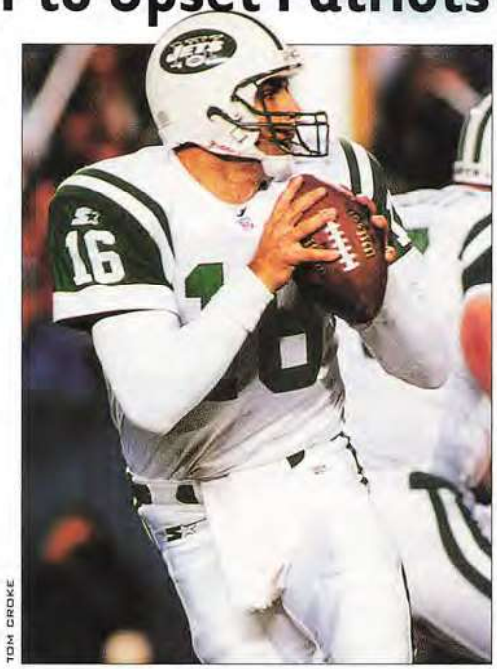
J.C. RIDLEY

CHARLIE BATCH

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

Veteran Barry Sanders rushed for 155 yards and a touchdown, and rookie Charlie Batch threw 2 touchdown passes to lead the Lions past the Packers 27-20.

Batch had the best game of his young career, completing 16 of 19 passes for 218 yards. His 68-yard touchdown pass to another rookie, Germane Crowell, gave Detroit the lead for good nine seconds into the fourth quarter. Six minutes later, Sanders raced 73 yards for another touchdown and a 24-13 lead.



TOM CROKE

Vinny Testaverde's 3 touchdown passes helped the visiting Jets topple the Patriots on Monday night.

Green Bay, the two-time defending NFC champion, lost its second consecutive game after starting the season 4-0.

EXPERIENCE HELPFUL

Forty-four-year-old quarterback Steve DeBerg came off the bench to help the Falcons defeat New Orleans 31-23.

DeBerg, who had not played in the NFL since the 1993 season, came out of retirement to sign with Atlanta in 1998. He replaced injured starter Chris Chandler with the Falcons leading 17-14 late in the second quarter. He was sacked for a safety in the third quarter, but gave his team a 24-16 lead with an 8-yard touchdown pass to Bob Christian 3:55 into the final quarter.

Safety Eugene Robinson secured the victory 28 seconds later with a 25-yard interception return for a touchdown. It was the fiftieth interception of Robinson's 14-year career.

Atlanta improved to 5-1 for the first time since the 1986 season.

HE SAID IT

ROBERT SKEOCH

From Bills defensive end Bruce Smith (left), after diminutive quarterback Doug Flutie ran for the winning touchdown against the previously undefeated Jacksonville Jaguars in the final seconds: "He's a big-time player who made big-time plays. His heart is a lot bigger than his size."

WEEK 7 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	4	2	0
New England	4	2	0
Buffalo	3	3	0
N.Y. Jets	3	3	0
Indianapolis	1	6	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	5	1	0
Pittsburgh	4	2	0
Tennessee	3	3	0
Baltimore	2	4	0
Cincinnati	2	4	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	6	0	0
Kansas City	4	2	0
Oakland	4	2	0
Seattle	3	3	0
San Diego	3	4	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	4	3	0
Arizona	3	4	0
N.Y. Giants	3	4	0
Philadelphia	1	6	0
Washington	0	7	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Minnesota	6	0	0
Green Bay	4	2	0
Tampa Bay	3	3	0
Detroit	2	4	0
Chicago	2	5	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Atlanta	5	1	0
San Francisco	5	1	0
New Orleans	3	3	0
St. Louis	2	4	0
Carolina	0	6	0

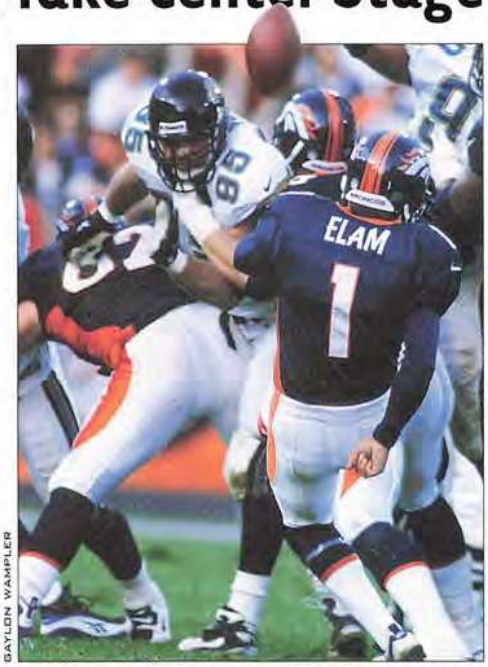
BIG GAMES

AFC Heavyweights Take Center Stage

Jason Elam's 63-yard field goal highlighted Denver's 37-24 victory over Jacksonville, and Pittsburgh upset Kansas City 20-13 in a pair of marquee matchups in the AFC.

Elam equaled Tom Dempsey's 28-year-old record for the longest field goal in NFL history when he connected as time ran out in the first half, giving the undefeated Broncos a 27-10 lead. They nursed that advantage in the second half behind Terrell Davis, who finished with 136 yards and 3 touchdowns on 31 carries. Davis became the third runner to reach 1,000 yards after only seven games. Jim Brown and O.J. Simpson, who did it twice, were the others.

On Monday, the Steelers handed the Chiefs their first loss at Arrowhead Stadium since December, 1996. Kordell Stewart's 5-yard touchdown pass to Charles Johnson 4:55 into the fourth quarter provided the decisive points.



GAYLON WAMPLER

The Broncos' Jason Elam launched this record-tying field goal on the final play of the first half.

MARE'S FINISHING KICK

TONY TOMSIC

OLINDO MARE

Olindo Mare's fourth field goal of the game, from 43 yards 4:36 into overtime, gave Miami a 12-9 victory over New England.

Mare outdueled the Patriots' Adam Vinatieri in the battle of field goals. Vinatieri's third of the game came from 36 yards and gave New England a 9-6 lead with 2:13 left in regulation. But Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino marched his team 52 yards on the next series, and Mare tied it from 25 yards in the final minute. In overtime, Miami took possession first and drove 59 yards to the winning kick.

The Dolphins, who lost three games to New England in a six-week span of the 1997 regular season and postseason, moved into first place in the AFC East. The division was its usual logjam, with four teams bunched within one game.

WORST TO FIRST

The Raiders exceeded their victory total for all of 1997, beating the Bengals 27-10 for their fifth win.

Oakland won its fourth consecutive game, amassing 251 yards on the ground and maintaining possession for more than 37 minutes. The Raiders' defense did the rest, limiting Cincinnati to a total of 170 yards.

Through eight weeks, Oakland's defense was the league's best, allowing 249.6 yards per game. A year ago, the Raiders gave up 382.3 yards per game, the worst figure in the NFL.

RECORD WATCH

MICHAEL HEBERT

San Francisco wide receiver Jerry Rice set an NFL record by catching a pass in his 184th consecutive game. Rice, who broke the mark previously held by Art Monk, caught a 12-yard touchdown pass from Steve Young on the 49ers' first offensive play in a 28-10 victory over St. Louis.

TOP PERFORMANCES

JOEY GALLOWAY

Napoleon Kaufman rushed for 143 yards on 31 carries in the Raiders' victory over Cincinnati.

Robert Smith rushed for 134 yards, including a 57-yard touchdown, and the Vikings remained undefeated with a 34-13 victory at Detroit.

Doug Brien kicked field goals of 46, 50, and 41 yards as the Saints edged the Buccaneers 9-3.

Joey Galloway caught an 81-yard touchdown pass and returned a punt 76 yards for a touchdown to spark the Seahawks to a 27-20 victory at San Diego.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Four weeks into the season, the Bears were 0-4 and the Bills were 0-3. Since then, Chicago has won three of four and the Bills have won four straight. Sunday, Chicago defeated Tennessee 23-20 on **Jeff Jaeger's** 33-yard field goal with 1:03 left. Buffalo blasted winless Carolina 30-14...The Packers ended a two-game skid with a 28-10 victory over the Ravens. **Brett Favre** threw 2 touchdown passes and ran for another...At 44, the Falcons' **Steve DeBerg** became the oldest quarterback to start an NFL game, but Atlanta dropped a 28-3 decision to New York. **Vinny Testaverde** improved to 4-0 as the Jets' starting quarterback... Through eight weeks, 11 teams had more turnovers than takeaways. Only one (Green Bay) had a winning record.

SCORES

AFC
Denver 37, Jacksonville 24
Pittsburgh 20, **Kansas City** 13
Miami 12, New England 9 (OT)
Oakland 27, Cincinnati 10
Seattle 27, **San Diego** 20

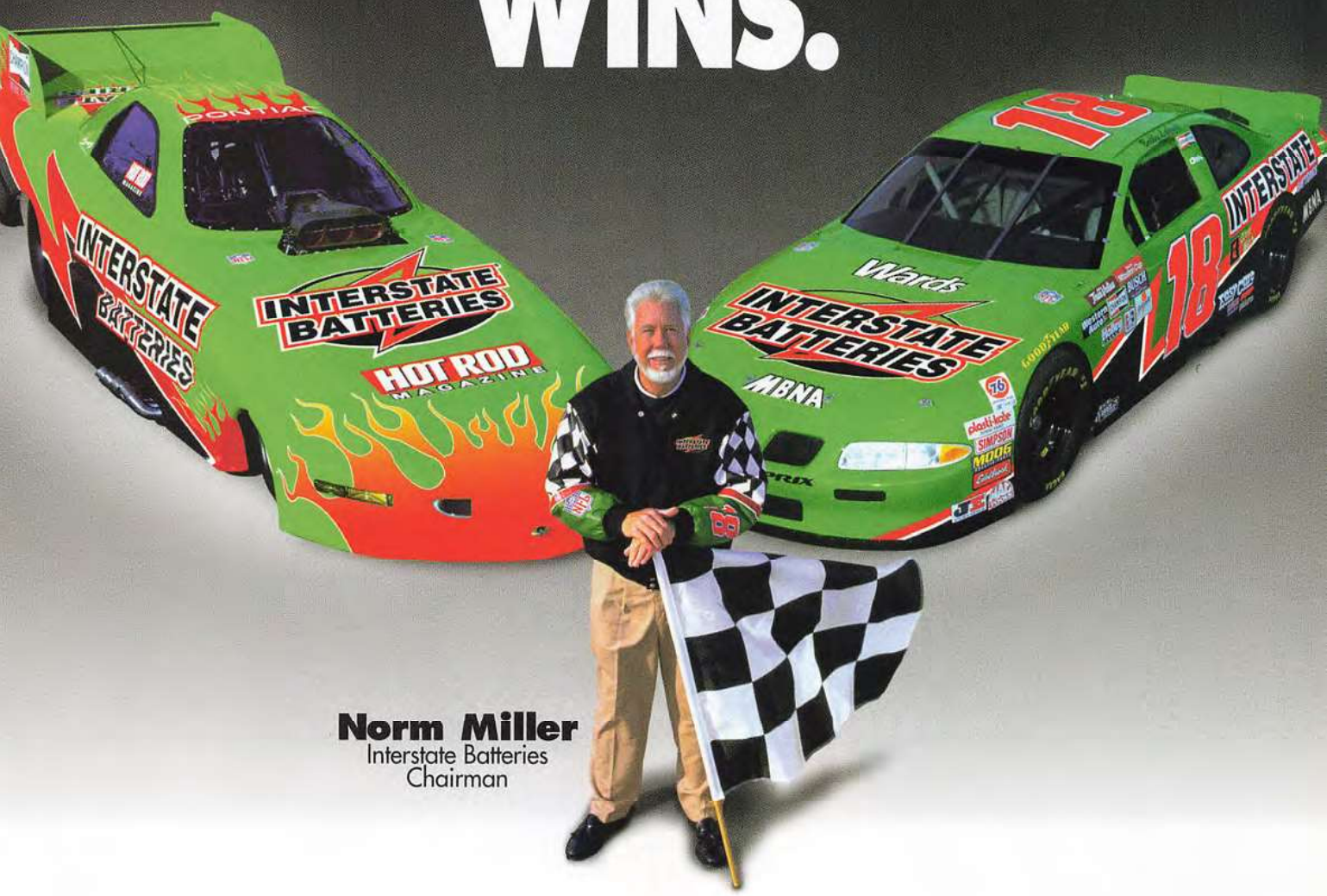
NFC
Minnesota 34, **Detroit** 13
New Orleans 9, Tampa Bay 3
San Francisco 28, **St. Louis** 10

Interconference
Buffalo 30, **Carolina** 14
Chicago 23, **Tennessee** 20
Green Bay 28, Baltimore 10
N.Y. Jets 28, Atlanta 3
(Home teams in bold)

WEEK 8 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Miami	5	2	0	Jacksonville	5	2	0	Denver	7	0	0	Dallas	4	3	0	Minnesota	7	0	0	San Francisco	6	1	0
Buffalo	4	3	0	Pittsburgh	5	2	0	Oakland	5	2	0	Arizona	3	4	0	Green Bay	5	2	0	Atlanta	5	2	0
New England	4	3	0	Tennessee	3	4	0	Kansas City	4	3	0	N.Y. Giants	3	4	0	Tampa Bay	3	4	0	New Orleans	4	3	0
N.Y. Jets	4	3	0	Baltimore	2	5	0	Seattle	4	3	0	Philadelphia	1	6	0	Chicago	3	5	0	St. Louis	2	5	0
Indianapolis	1	6	0	Cincinnati	2	5	0	San Diego	3	5	0	Washington	0	7	0	Detroit	2	5	0	Carolina	0	7	0

WE'RE STILL #1 NO MATTER WHO WINS.



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TOP PERFORMANCES

EDDIE GEORGE

Jamal Anderson rushed for 172 yards and scored 3 touchdowns in the Falcons' 37-15 rout of the Rams. **Eddie George** rushed for 153 yards and 1 touchdown and **Steve McNair** threw 3 touchdown passes as the Oilers surprised the Steelers 41-31 in Pittsburgh.

Albert Lewis returned an interception 74 yards to spark the Raiders' fifth consecutive victory, 31-18 over Seattle.

Ed McCaffrey caught 7 passes for 133 yards, including a 25-yard touchdown catch in the fourth quarter, to help undefeated Denver to a 33-26 victory over Cincinnati.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Jacksonville scored 42 first-half points en route to a 45-19 victory over the Ravens. **Mark Brunell** passed for 2 touchdowns, and the Jaguars scored on a blocked punt and a fumble return...The Jets won for the fifth time in six games, beating Kansas City 20-17 when **John Hall** kicked a 32-yard field goal as time ran out. The Chiefs lost back-to-back home games for the first time in Marty Schottenheimer's 10 years as coach...Quarterback **Troy Aikman** returned to the Cowboys' lineup for the first time since suffering a broken collarbone in week 2. He threw 2 touchdown passes in Dallas's 34-0 rout of Philadelphia...Washington (21-14 over the Giants) and Carolina (31-17 over New Orleans) each won its first game.

SCORES

AFC

Buffalo 30, Miami 24
Denver 33, **Cincinnati** 26
Jacksonville 45, **Baltimore** 19
New England 21, **Indianapolis** 16
N.Y. Jets 20, **Kansas City** 17
Oakland 31, **Seattle** 18
Tennessee 41, **Pittsburgh** 31

NFC

Arizona 17, **Detroit** 15
Atlanta 37, St. Louis 15
Carolina 31, New Orleans 17
Dallas 34, **Philadelphia** 0
Green Bay 36, San Francisco 22
Tampa Bay 27, Minnesota 24
Washington 21, N.Y. Giants 14
(Home teams in bold)

BIG GAMES

Pack Sacks 49ers Again

Brett Favre and Antonio Freeman teamed on a pair of long touchdown passes, and the Packers' defense sacked quarterback Steve Young 9 times in Green Bay's 36-22 victory over the 49ers. It was the Packers' fifth victory over San Francisco without a defeat since former 49ers assistant Mike Holmgren took over as coach.

Favre threw a short pass to Freeman who turned it into an 80-yard touchdown on the game's first play to help Green Bay build a 16-0 lead in the first 5:16. San Francisco rallied, but Favre's nearly identical pass to Freeman went for a 62-yard score and broke a 22-22 tie early in the fourth quarter. Freeman finished with 7 catches for a career-high 193 yards.

Green Bay's early lead forced San Francisco to the air, and Young was harassed constantly. Defensive end Reggie White had 3 sacks, giving him 11 for the year. It was the twelfth time in White's career that he has had at least 10 sacks.

BILLS STAMPEDING

Doug Flutie threw 3 touchdown passes and Steve Christie kicked 3 fourth-quarter field goals as the Bills continued a remarkable run with their fifth consecutive victory, a 30-24 defeat of Miami.

The Dolphins led 24-14 early in the fourth quarter until Flutie teamed with Eric Moulds on a 48-yard touchdown pass to trim Buffalo's deficit to three points. Christie kicked field goals on each of the Bills' final three possessions.

By winning, Buffalo moved into a tie for first place in the AFC East. The Bills, Dolphins, Patriots, and Jets each stood 5-3 at the midpoint of the season.

TODD ROSENBERG

Pro Bowl veteran Reggie White sacked 49ers quarterback Steve Young three times.

BUCCANEERS' BOOTY

Tampa Bay handed Minnesota its first defeat of the season when Mike Alstott ran 6 yards for the winning touchdown with 5:48 left to give the Buccaneers a 27-24 victory.

PETER BROUILLET

MIKE ALSTOTT

The see-saw game was tied 17-17 after a first half in which each team had the ball three times and each posted 2 touchdowns and a field goal. The Vikings scored again to open the second half, taking the lead on Randall Cunningham's 1-yard touchdown pass to Jake Reed. But the Buccaneers' defense stiffened, and Tampa Bay scored 10 points in the fourth quarter to win.

Alstott rushed for 128 yards on 19 carries, while Warrick Dunn added 115 yards on 18 carries for the Buccaneers, who did not punt in the game.

MILESTONES

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

Steve Young and Jerry Rice teamed on their eightieth career scoring pass in the 49ers' loss at Green Bay, making them the most prolific touchdown pass combination in NFL history. Young also ran 1 yard for a touchdown to surpass Jack Kemp as the NFL's career leader among quarterbacks with 41.

WEEK 9 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	5	3	0
Miami	5	3	0
New England	5	3	0
N.Y. Jets	5	3	0
Indianapolis	1	7	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	6	2	0
Pittsburgh	5	3	0
Tennessee	4	4	0
Baltimore	2	6	0
Cincinnati	2	6	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	8	0	0
Oakland	6	2	0
Kansas City	4	4	0
Seattle	4	4	0
San Diego	3	5	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	5	3	0
Arizona	4	4	0
N.Y. Giants	3	5	0
Philadelphia	1	7	0
Washington	1	7	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Minnesota	7	1	0
Green Bay	6	2	0
Tampa Bay	4	4	0
Chicago	3	5	0
Detroit	2	6	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Atlanta	6	2	0
San Francisco	6	2	0
New Orleans	4	4	0
St. Louis	2	6	0
Carolina	1	7	0

BIG GAMES

Stewart Finds Touch in Steelers' Win

Pittsburgh built a 24-0 halftime lead over Green Bay, then held off the Packers' furious second-half rally to win 27-20 on Monday night.

Steelers quarterback Kordell Stewart keyed his team's first-half explosion by passing for 1 touchdown, rushing for another, and setting up a third with a long completion.

After Green Bay's deficit reached 27-0 midway through the third quarter, the Packers chipped away with Ryan Longwell's 42-yard field goal and Keith McKenzie's 88-yard fumble return for a touchdown. Raymont Harris's 2-yard touchdown run made it 27-17, and an onside kick recovery led to Longwell's 37-yard field goal with 2:40 left. But Pittsburgh recovered another onside kick and ran out the clock.

BILL AMATUCCI

Kordell Stewart showed 1997 form in leading Steelers to victory.

BY GEORGE, OILERS BACK IN RACE

Eddie George rushed for 134 yards and a touchdown and quarterback Steve McNair ran 71 yards for a back-breaking touchdown late in the fourth quarter of Tennessee's 31-22 victory over Tampa Bay.

The Oilers' fourth victory in five games negated a 1-3 start and put them in the thick of the playoff chase in the AFC. They also won for the fourth time in five games on the road.

Tennessee trailed 16-3 until George, who ran for more than 100 yards for the fifth consecutive game, capped the opening drive of the second half with a 14-yard touchdown run. On their next possession, the Oilers took the lead for good on Mike Archie's 7-yard touchdown run 8:22 into the third quarter.

At the two-minute warning, Tennessee was nursing a 24-22 lead and faced third-and-8 from its 29. McNair appeared trapped behind the line of scrimmage, but he escaped and took off on his game-clinching run with 1:46 remaining.

JOHN SANDHAUS

JAMAL ANDERSON

SOUTHERN COMFORT

Jamal Anderson rushed for 104 yards and 2 touchdowns as the Falcons continued their remarkable run with a surprisingly easy 41-10 victory over the Patriots in Foxboro.

Anderson, who scored 3 touchdowns in a victory over the Rams one week earlier, had touchdown runs of 1 and 10 yards to help Atlanta build a 28-3 lead at intermission. Chris Handler added 2 touchdown passes to tight end O.J. Santiago, and the Falcons never were threatened.

MILESTONES

JAMES D. SMITH

Emmitt Smith surpassed 12,000 career yards and became the leading rusher in Cowboys' history when he gained 163 yards in Dallas's 16-6 victory over the Giants. Smith finished the game at 12,105 yards. Pro Football Hall of Fame member Tony Dorsett had 12,036 yards in 11 seasons with the Cowboys.

TOP PERFORMANCES

BRAD JOHNSON

O.J. McDuffie caught 9 passes for 132 yards, including touchdowns of 61 and 6 yards, in Miami's 27-14 victory over Indianapolis. Defensive end Chuck Smith had 3 sacks and returned a fumble 71 yards for a touchdown in the Falcons' victory over New England. Brad Johnson relieved injured Randall Cunningham and led the Vikings to a 31-24 victory over the Saints. Johnson, playing for the first time since breaking his leg in week 2, passed for 316 yards and a touchdown but also suffered a broken thumb on his throwing hand.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

The Jets snapped Buffalo's five-game winning streak with a 34-12 rout at the Meadowlands. New York's Vinny Testaverde threw 3 touchdown passes and improved his record to 6-0 as the team's starting quarterback...Arizona's Joe Nedney and San Francisco's Wade Richey won games with late field goals. Nedney's 47-yard kick came with two seconds left and beat the Redskins 29-27; Richey capped the 49ers' 25-23 come-from-behind victory over Carolina with a 46-yard field goal with 33 seconds left...Seattle sent Kansas City reeling to its fourth consecutive defeat 24-12.

SCORES

AFC
Baltimore 13, Oakland 10
Denver 27, San Diego 10
Jacksonville 24, Cincinnati 11
Miami 27, Indianapolis 14
N.Y. Jets 34, Buffalo 12
Seattle 24, Kansas City 12

NFC
Arizona 29, Washington 27
Dallas 16, N.Y. Giants 6
Minnesota 31, New Orleans 24
Philadelphia 10, Detroit 9
St. Louis 20, Chicago 12
San Francisco 25, Carolina 23

Interconference
Atlanta 41, New England 10
Pittsburgh 27, Green Bay 20
Tennessee 31, Tampa Bay 22
(Home teams in bold)

WEEK 10 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Miami	6	3	0	Jacksonville	7	2	0	Denver	9	0	0	Dallas	6	3	0	Minnesota	8	1	0	Atlanta	7	2	0
N.Y. Jets	6	3	0	Pittsburgh	6	3	0	Oakland	6	3	0	Arizona	5	4	0	Green Bay	6	3	0	San Francisco	7	2	0
Buffalo	5	4	0	Tennessee	5	4	0	Seattle	5	4	0	N.Y. Giants	3	6	0	Tampa Bay	4	5	0	New Orleans	4	5	0
New England	5	4	0	Baltimore	3	6	0	Kansas City	4	5	0	Philadelphia	2	7	0	Chicago	3	6	0	St. Louis	3	6	0
Indianapolis	1	8	0	Cincinnati	2	7	0	San Diego	3	6	0	Washington	1	8	0	Detroit	2	7	0	Carolina	1	8	0

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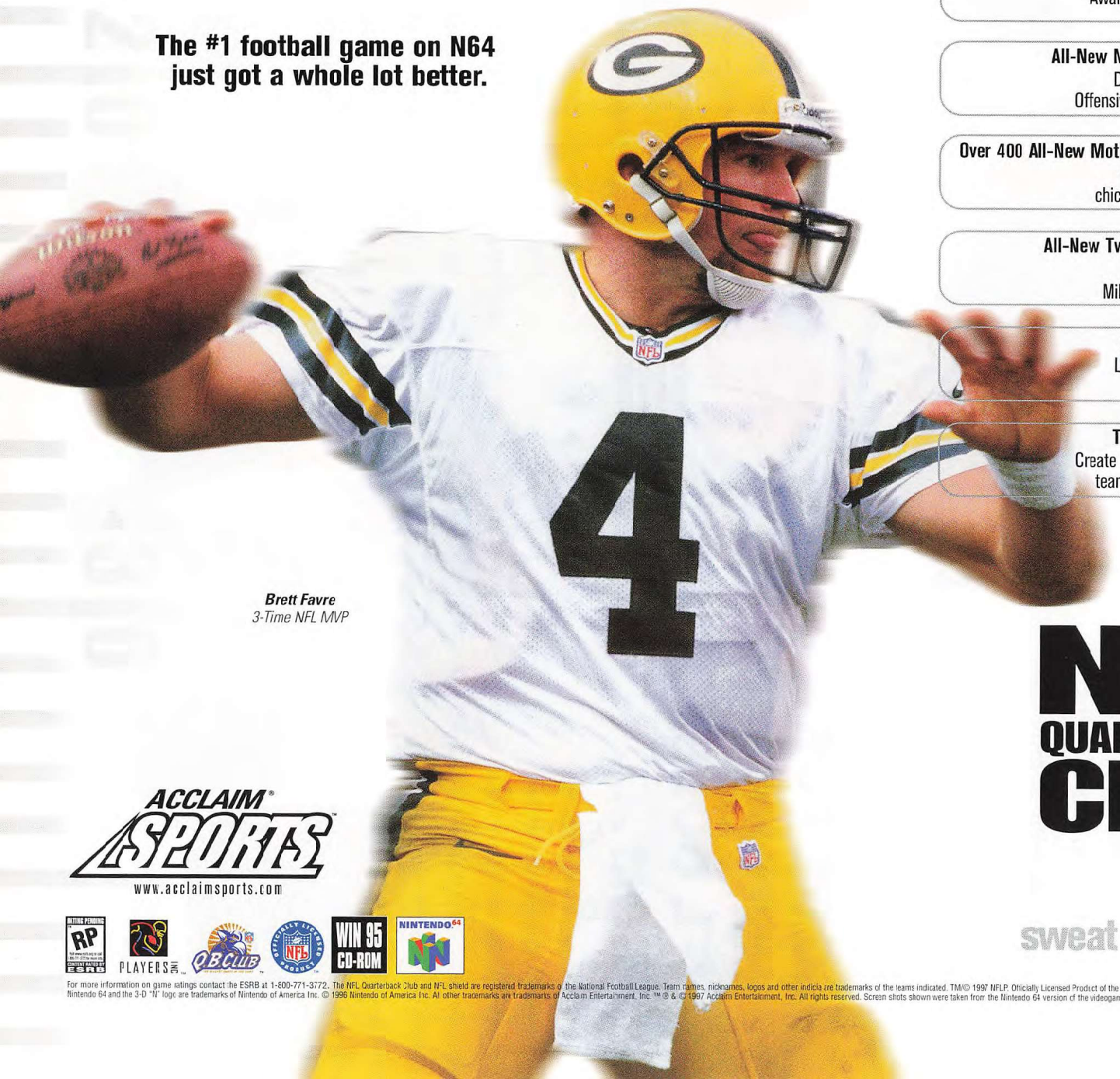

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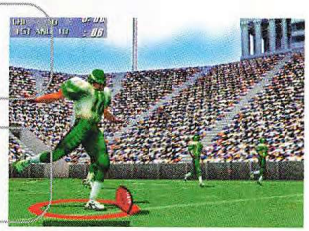

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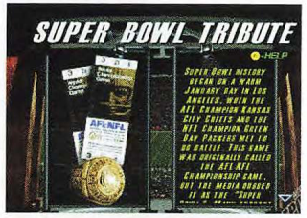

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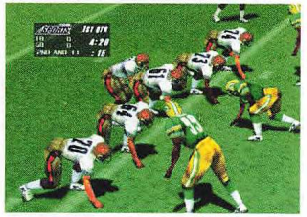

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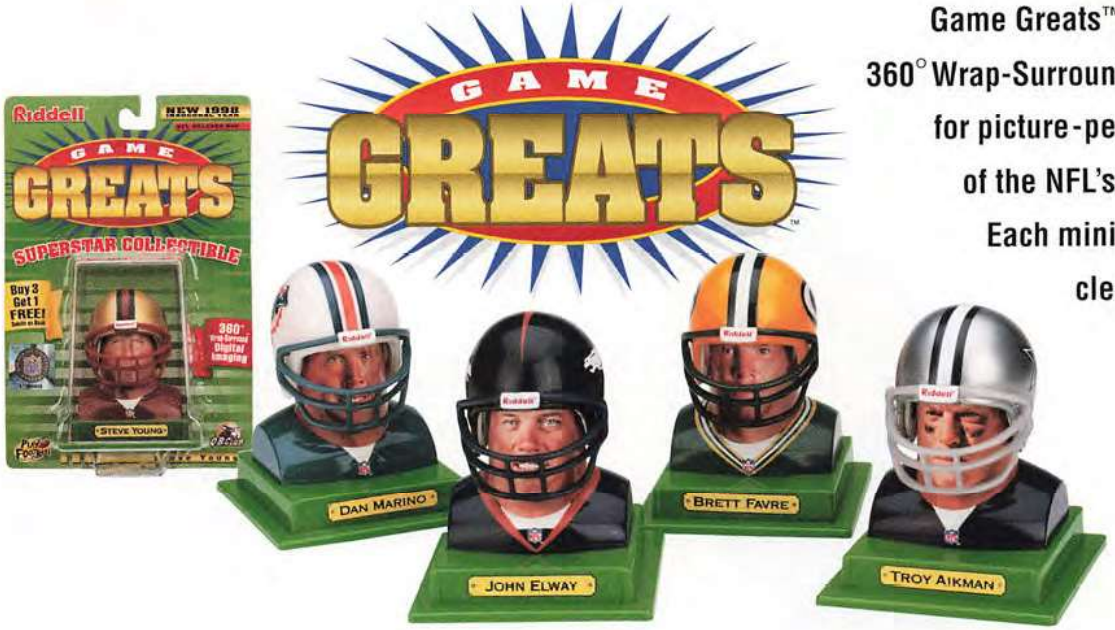

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TOP PERFORMANCES

PEYTON MANNING

Recently acquired **Darick Holmes** rescued Green Bay's faltering rushing attack with 111 yards in the Packers' 37-3 rout of the New York Giants. **Peyton Manning** passed for 3 touchdowns, including a game-winning, 14-yard strike to **Marcus Pollard** in the final minute, to lead the Colts to a 24-23 upset of the Jets.

Defensive tackle **La'Roi Glover** had 3 of New Orleans's 7 sacks in a 24-3 victory over the Rams.

Jake Plummer completed 31 of 56 passes for 465 yards and 3 touchdowns in the Cardinals' loss to the Cowboys.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Tennessee pulled into a tie for second place in the AFC Central by beating the Steelers for the second time in three weeks, 23-14. The decisive points came on **Al Del Greco's** 22-yard field goal with three seconds left (the Oilers also recovered a fumble in the end zone for a touchdown with no time remaining)...Miami's 13-9 victory over the Panthers, coupled with the Jets' loss to the Colts, lifted the Dolphins into first place in the AFC East...**Randall Cunningham** was back in the lineup just six days after arthroscopic surgery on his knee, helping Minnesota win for the ninth time in 10 games, 24-3 over Cincinnati.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 13, New England 10
Denver 30, Kansas City 7
Indianapolis 24, N.Y. Jets 23
Oakland 20, Seattle 17
San Diego 14, Baltimore 13
Tennessee 23, Pittsburgh 14

NFC
Atlanta 31, San Francisco 19
Dallas 35, Arizona 28
Detroit 26, Chicago 3
Green Bay 37, N.Y. Giants 3
New Orleans 24, St. Louis 3
Washington 28, Philadelphia 3

Interconference
Jacksonville 29, Tampa Bay 24
Miami 13, Carolina 9
Minnesota 24, Cincinnati 3
(Home teams in bold)

BIG GAMES

Falcons' Perch Is Atop the NFC West

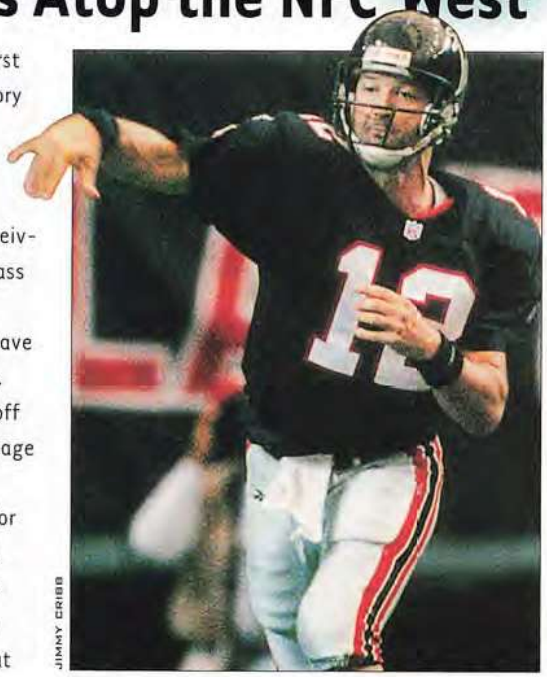
Atlanta moved into sole possession of first place in the NFC West with a 31-19 victory over San Francisco.

Jamal Anderson rushed for 100 yards and 2 touchdowns for Atlanta, and Chris Chandler sealed the victory by combining with wide receiver Terance Mathis on a 78-yard touchdown pass play with 2:51 left.

Beginning in November, 1997, the Falcons have won 13 of their last 16 regular-season games.

In another division showdown, Dallas held off Arizona 35-28 to open up a two-game advantage on the Cardinals in the NFC East.

Emmitt Smith had 3 short touchdown runs for the Cowboys, who built a 28-0 first-half lead, then withstood Arizona's rally at the end. The Cardinals had a chance to tie after driving to Dallas's 5-yard line in the closing seconds, but Jake Plummer's pass for Rob Moore in the end zone was broken up by Kevin Smith.



JIMMY CRIBB

Chris Chandler sealed Atlanta's victory with a 78-yard touchdown pass to Terance Mathis.

TAYLOR MADE

Rookie running back Fred Taylor proved to be the difference in Jacksonville's 29-24 victory over in-state rival Tampa Bay.

Taylor, who took over as the Jaguars' lead back after James Stewart suffered a season-ending injury in week 3, ran for 128 yards and 3 touchdowns, including a game-winning 70-yard dash with 2:40 left.

Reidel Anthony, a former high school and college teammate of Taylor's, helped the Buccaneers forge a 24-20 lead early in the fourth quarter by catching 47- and 79-yard touchdown passes from Trent Dilfer.

ROOKIE WATCH

GREG MELVIN

Redskins third-round draft choice Skip Hicks played sparingly the first half of the season as a backup to running back Terry Allen. But with Allen out with an injury, Hicks stepped in to rush for 94 yards and 3 touchdowns in Washington's 28-3 victory over Philadelphia.

PERFECT 10

Denver blasted Kansas City 30-7 on Monday night for its tenth victory without a loss.

Quarterback Bubby Brister (38 yards), subbing for injured John Elway, and Terrell Davis (41 yards) had long touchdown runs on back-to-back possessions in the first quarter, and the Broncos coasted to victory.

Brister completed 13 of 23 passes for 180 yards, and gave Denver the lead for good when he ran for his touchdown just five plays into the game. Davis rushed for 111 yards on 18 carries.

ERIC LARS BAKKE

BUBBY BRISTER

Denver became the first team in seven years to begin a season 10-0. The Chiefs lost their fifth consecutive game.

WEEK 11 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	7	3	0
Buffalo	6	4	0
N.Y. Jets	6	4	0
New England	5	5	0
Indianapolis	2	8	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	8	2	0
Pittsburgh	6	4	0
Tennessee	6	4	0
Baltimore	3	7	0
Cincinnati	2	8	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	10	0	0
Oakland	7	3	0
Seattle	5	5	0
Kansas City	4	6	0
San Diego	4	6	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	7	3	0
Arizona	5	5	0
N.Y. Giants	3	7	0
Philadelphia	2	8	0
Washington	2	8	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Dallas	7	3	0
Arizona	5	5	0
N.Y. Giants	3	7	0
Philadelphia	2	8	0
Washington	2	8	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Atlanta	8	2	0
San Francisco	7	3	0
New Orleans	5	5	0
St. Louis	3	7	0
Carolina	1	9	0

BIG GAMES

Patriots Win Monday Night Drama

Drew Bledsoe's 25-yard touchdown pass to Shawn Jefferson with 29 seconds left gave the Patriots a dramatic 26-23 victory over the Dolphins on Monday night.

Karim Abdul-Jabbar's 4-yard touchdown run had given Miami a 23-19 advantage with 3:22 remaining. But Bledsoe engineered a 15-play, 80-yard drive to the winning score.

Despite breaking the index finger on his throwing hand during the march, Bledsoe passed on the last 14 plays, converting for first downs three times on third down and twice on fourth down.

The victory kept the Patriots alive in the AFC East. New England pulled within one game of the lead, which was shared by the Dolphins, Bills, and Jets.

DAVID SILVERMAN/NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Drew Bledsoe and the Patriots beat the Dolphins with a touchdown pass in the last minute.

CUT OFF AT THE PASS

In Pittsburgh, the Steelers derailed Jacksonville 30-15 to pull within one game of the Jaguars in the AFC Central.

DEWAYNE WASHINGTON

MIKE FABUS

Steelers cornerback Dewayne Washington opened the scoring with a 52-yard interception return for a touchdown midway through the first quarter, then thwarted Jacksonville's last chance with a 78-yard interception return for a touchdown in the final minute of the game.

Carlos Emmons also had an interception for the Steelers, who limited Jaguars quarterback Mark Brunell to only 18 completions in 42 attempts.

VIKINGS TAKE CENTRAL STAGE

Minnesota left no doubt which team was dominant in the NFC Central this season by beating Green Bay 28-14 at the Metrodome. With a three-game lead and two victories in hand over the Packers, the Vikings nearly were assured of wresting the division title from the three-time defending champions.

Minnesota, which beat Green Bay 37-24 in week 5, jumped to a 20-7 halftime lead in this game. Cornerback Jimmy Hitchcock made the key play, returning an interception 58 yards for a touchdown late in the first quarter.

The Vikings put the game away in the fourth quarter when Randall Cunningham threw a 49-yard touchdown pass to Randy Moss with 3:17 remaining. It was Cunningham's second touchdown pass of the game and his sixth in Minnesota's two victories over Green Bay.

The Vikings officially clinched a playoff berth when the 49ers beat the Saints Sunday night.

MILESTONES

RYAN MCKEE

John Elway passed for 197 yards in Denver's 40-14 victory over Oakland and joined Dan Marino as the only NFL players to surpass 50,000 career yards (the Broncos' quarterback was at 50,167 at game's end). Elway had 3 touchdown passes as Denver improved to 11-0.

TOP PERFORMANCES

ANTOWAIN SMITH

ROBERT SKEOCH

Jake Plummer ran for 3 touchdowns and passed for 2 as the Cardinals held off Washington 45-42.

Antowain Smith rushed for 107 yards and 2 touchdowns to key the Bills' seventh victory in eight games, a 34-11 rout of Indianapolis.

Priest Holmes rushed for a club-record 227 yards in the Ravens' 20-13 victory over Cincinnati. Holmes ran for 400 yards in two games against the Bengals this season.

Troy Aikman completed 28 of 42 passes for 296 yards and a touchdown in the Cowboys' 30-22 victory over the Seahawks.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Atlanta survived a scare from Chicago to win its fourth in a row and remain in first place in the NFC West. The Falcons trailed by 10 points late in the third quarter but rallied to win 20-13...The Jets moved back into a tie for first place in the AFC East and dealt the Oilers' playoff chances a blow with a 24-3 rout...The Chiefs' free fall continued in their sixth consecutive defeat, a 38-37 loss at San Diego. Kansas City squandered a 17-point lead in the final 8:01 and fell into last place in the AFC West when **Craig Whelihan** passed for a 1-yard touchdown to **Charlie Jones** with nine seconds left.

SCORES

AFC
Baltimore 20, Cincinnati 13
Buffalo 34, Indianapolis 11
Denver 40, Oakland 14
New England 26, Miami 23
N.Y. Jets 24, Tennessee 3
Pittsburgh 30, Jacksonville 15
San Diego 38, Kansas City 37

NFC
Arizona 45, Washington 42
Atlanta 20, Chicago 13
Carolina 24, St. Louis 20
Detroit 28, Tampa Bay 25
Minnesota 28, Green Bay 14
N.Y. Giants 20, Philadelphia 0
San Francisco 31, New Orleans 20

Interconference
Dallas 30, Seattle 22
(Home teams in bold)

WEEK 12 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	7	4	0	Jacksonville	8	3	0	Denver	11	0	0	Dallas	8	3	0	Minnesota	10	1	0	Atlanta	9	2	0
Miami	7	4	0	Pittsburgh	7	4	0	Oakland	7	4	0	Arizona	6	5	0	Green Bay	7	4	0	San Francisco	8	3	0
N.Y. Jets	7	4	0	Tennessee	6	5	0	San Diego	5	6	0	N.Y. Giants	4	7	0	Detroit	4	7	0	New Orleans	5	6	0
New England	6	5	0	Baltimore	4	7	0	Seattle	5	6	0	Philadelphia	2	9	0	Tampa Bay	4	7	0	St. Louis	3	8	0
Indianapolis	2	9	0	Cincinnati	2	9	0	Kansas City	4	7	0	Washington	2	9	0	Chicago	3	8	0	Carolina	2	9	0

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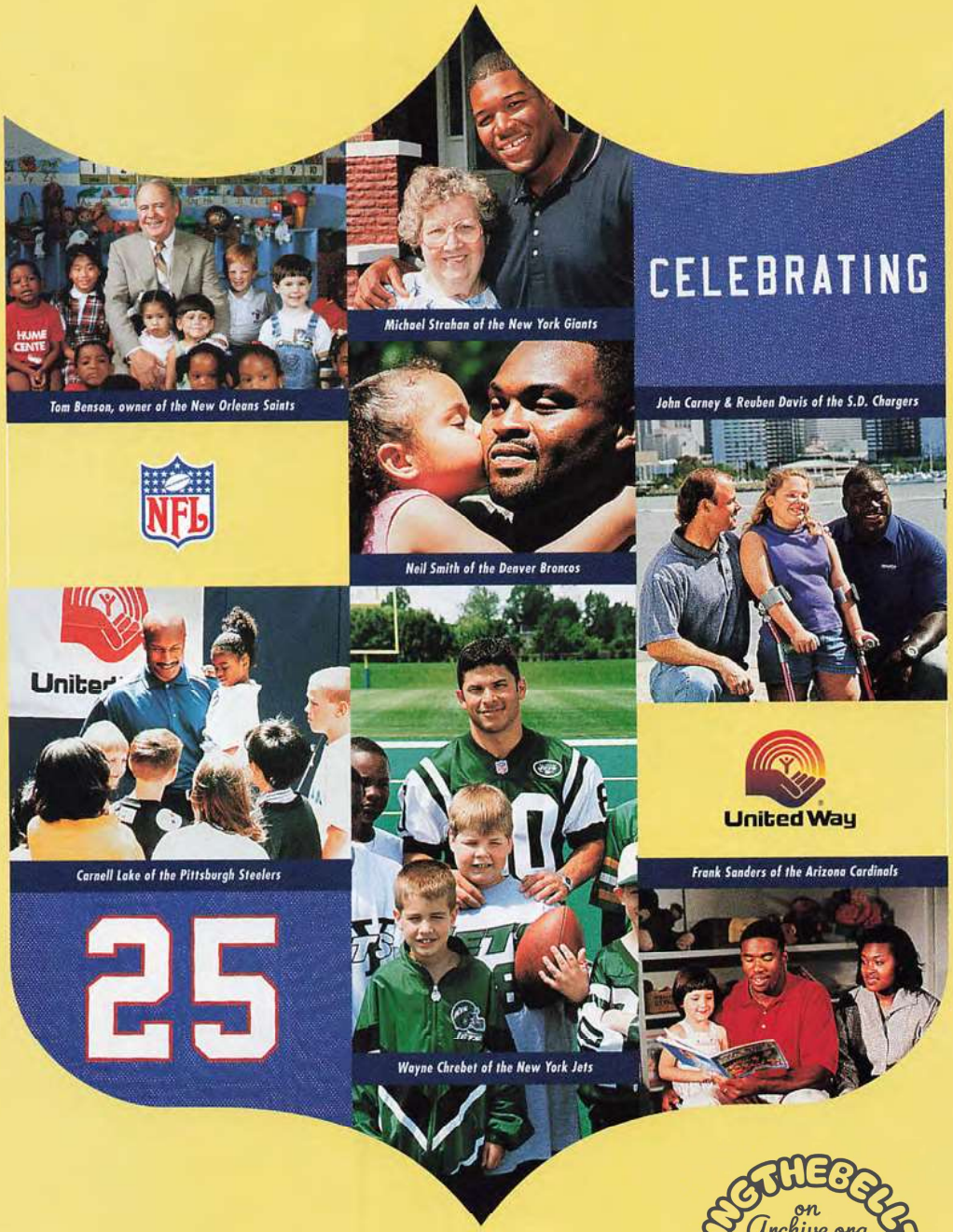
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TOP PERFORMANCES

MARK BRUNELL

Darrien Gordon intercepted 2 passes and recovered a fumble, accounting for 3 of the Broncos' 6 takeaways in a 31-16 victory over the Chargers. **Mark Brunell** passed for 244 yards and a career-high 4 touchdowns to lead the Jaguars past the Bengals 34-17. **Jamal Anderson** rushed for 188 yards, including the clinching 27-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter, to help Atlanta gain a playoff berth with a 21-10 victory over St. Louis.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Denver's victory over San Diego enabled the Broncos to join the 1934 and 1985 Bears and the 1972 Dolphins as the only teams to start a season 12-0. Miami's 17-0 mark in '72 is the only perfect season in NFL history ...**Curtis Martin** rushed for 2 touchdowns, including 1 of 60 yards, and **John Hall** kicked 4 field goals in the Jets' 48-21 rout of Carolina. New York remained tied with Miami for first place in the AFC East... Washington won on the road for the first time this season, dealing the Raiders their third loss in four games, 29-19. **Trent Green** passed for 3 touchdowns for the Redskins...The Chiefs ended the longest losing streak of coach **Marty Schottenheimer's** career at six games when they beat the Cardinals 34-24.

SCORES

AFC
Baltimore 38, Indianapolis 31
Denver 31, San Diego 16
Jacksonville 34, Cincinnati 17
New England 25, Buffalo 21
Seattle 20, Tennessee 18

NFC
Atlanta 21, St. Louis 10
Green Bay 24, Philadelphia 16
Minnesota 46, Dallas 36
San Francisco 31, N.Y. Giants 7
Tampa Bay 31, Chicago 17

Interconference
Detroit 19, Pittsburgh 16 (OT)
Kansas City 34, Arizona 24
Miami 30, New Orleans 10
N.Y. Jets 48, Carolina 21
Washington 29, Oakland 19
(Home teams in bold)

BIG GAMES

Happy Holiday for Vikings, Lions

Randall Cunningham threw 4 touchdown bombs, 3 of them to rookie Randy Moss, and the Vikings improved to 11-1 with a 46-36 victory over the Cowboys on Thanksgiving Day.

Minnesota scored 5 touchdowns of 50 yards or more. Cunningham, who passed for 359 yards, teamed with Moss (51 and 56 yards) and Cris Carter (54 yards) for touchdowns as Minnesota built a 21-6 lead in the first 12:19.

Moss, who made only 3 catches, caught another 56-yard scoring bomb late in the third quarter, and Leroy Hoard secured the victory with a 50-yard touchdown run midway through the final period.

Also on Thanksgiving, Detroit climbed back into the playoff chase after winning its third in a row, a 19-16 overtime victory against Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh's Norm Johnson forced overtime when he kicked a 25-yard field goal with one second left in regulation time. But the Lions took the opening kickoff in the extra session and drove 41 yards to Jason Hanson's winning 42-yard field goal.

Lions running back Barry Sanders was limited to 33 yards on 20 carries, but surpassed the 15,000-yard mark (15,003) for his career.

DAVID SILVERMAN/NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

BEN COATES

TIME BANDITS

The Patriots won in thrilling fashion for the second time in six days, handing the Bills a heartbreaking 25-21 defeat on Drew Bledsoe's 1-yard touchdown pass to Ben Coates after time expired.

New England trailed 21-17 when Terry Glenn could not hold on to Bledsoe's desperation pass in the end zone as the final seconds ran out. But the Bills were penalized for pass interference, giving the Patriots one more play from the 1.

The victory pulled New England into a tie with Buffalo for third place in the AFC East, one game out of the division lead.

JAMES D. SMITH

Wide receiver Randy Moss had three big scoring plays in the Vikings' victory over the Cowboys.

RAVENS, EVERMORE

The Colts returned to Baltimore for the first time since leaving in 1984, and lost 38-31 to the Ravens.

Baltimore won by rallying to score the game's final 17 points, erasing a 10-point, fourth-quarter deficit. Jim Harbaugh's 22-yard touchdown pass to Floyd Turner pulled the Ravens within three points on the first play of the final period, and Priest Holmes's 36-yard touchdown run just 1:48 later gave Baltimore the lead for good.

MILESTONES

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Dan Marino became the first NFL player to pass for 400 career touchdowns when he completed 3 scoring passes in the Dolphins' 30-10 victory over New Orleans. Marino, who finished the game at 401, teamed with O.J. McDuffie on all of his touchdown passes against the Saints.

WEEK 13 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	8	4	0
N.Y. Jets	8	4	0
Buffalo	7	5	0
New England	7	5	0
Indianapolis	2	10	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	9	3	0
Pittsburgh	7	5	0
Tennessee	6	6	0
Baltimore	5	7	0
Cincinnati	2	10	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	12	0	0
Oakland	7	5	0
Seattle	6	6	0
Kansas City	5	7	0
San Diego	5	7	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	8	4	0
Arizona	6	6	0
N.Y. Giants	4	8	0
Washington	3	9	0
Philadelphia	2	10	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Minnesota	11	1	0
Green Bay	8	4	0
Detroit	5	7	0
Tampa Bay	5	7	0
Chicago	3	9	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Atlanta	10	2	0
San Francisco	9	3	0
New Orleans	5	7	0
St. Louis	3	9	0
Carolina	2	10	0

BIG GAMES

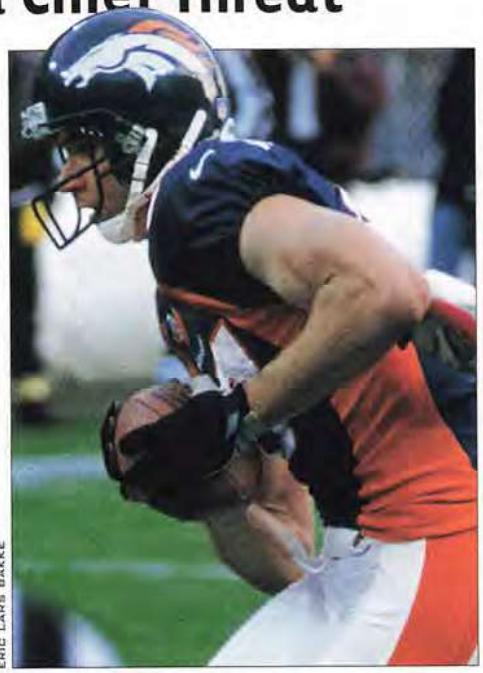
Broncos Withstand Chief Threat

Denver survived its closest call yet, rallying from a 10-point deficit in the final seven minutes to defeat Kansas City 35-31 and boost its record to 13-0.

The Chiefs, who led by as many as 14 points in the first half, held a 31-21 lead after Pete Stoyanovich kicked a 20-yard field goal with 8:25 to go. But the Broncos took only four plays to counter, climaxed by Terrell Davis's 1-yard touchdown run (his third of the game), then went ahead for the first time on John Elway's 24-yard touchdown pass to Shannon Sharpe with 3:34 to play.

Kansas City reached Denver's 36 on its final possession, but 3 incompletions and Alfred Williams's sack ended the Chiefs' upset hopes.

Elway passed for 400 yards and 2 touchdowns, including a 13-yard strike to Ed McCaffrey, as the Broncos secured home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.



ERIC LARS BAKKE

Ed McCaffrey's 13-yard touchdown catch late in the first half helped Denver beat Kansas City.

DAVE CROSS

ROBERT JONES

POWER STRUGGLE

While there was little suspense to most of the division races, the AFC East was shaping up as a fight to the finish: Miami, the New York Jets, Buffalo, and New England all won in week 14 and were within a game of each other in the standings.

The Dolphins intercepted 6 passes—linebackers Zach Thomas and Robert Jones each returned 1 for a touchdown—in a 27-17 victory over Oakland. Miami remained tied for first place with the Jets, who rallied from a 12-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat Seattle 32-31 on Vinny Testaverde's 5-yard touchdown run in the final minute.

The Patriots and Bills kept pace. New England defeated the Steelers 23-9, its first victory in Pittsburgh in 12 years, while Buffalo dealt Cincinnati its eleventh loss in 13 games, 33-20.

READY FOR PRIME TIME

Trent Dilfer passed for 2 touchdowns and ran for another to lift the Buccaneers to a 24-22 victory over the Packers on Monday night. It was Tampa Bay's second Monday night game this season. Before the 1998 season, it had been 15 years since the Buccaneers had appeared on *Monday Night Football*.

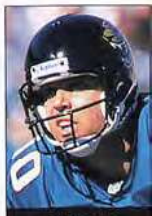
Dilfer teamed with Jacquez Green (64 yards) and Bert Emanuel (62 yards) for touchdowns as the Buccaneers built a 14-6 advantage at halftime. In the fourth quarter, Dilfer ran 6 yards for a touchdown and a 24-15 lead.

ROOKIE WATCH

For the second consecutive week, Vikings rookie wide receiver Randy Moss caught 3 touchdown passes. Moss had touchdown catches of 6, 3, and 34 yards in Minnesota's 48-22 victory over Chicago, raising his season total to 14 touchdown receptions, an NFL single-season record for rookies.

MARK BRETTINGEN

TOP PERFORMANCES



JAMIE MARTIN

Jamie Martin, a reserve quarterback, passed for 228 yards and 2 touchdowns in Jacksonville's 37-22 victory over Detroit. Fred Taylor added 183 yards and 2 touchdowns on the ground.

Eric Moulds had 6 catches for 196 yards, including touchdowns of 70 and 30 yards, in Buffalo's victory over Cincinnati.

Vinny Testaverde completed 42 of a club-record 63 passes for 418 yards and 2 touchdowns, but it was his 5-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-goal with 20 seconds left that gave the Jets their victory over the Seahawks.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Dick Vermeil, who coached the Eagles to Super Bowl XV following the 1980 season, returned to Philadelphia for the first time as St. Louis's coach, but his Rams dropped their fourth in a row, 17-14...Arizona had a chance to take control in the race for the last wild-card playoff spot in the NFC, but the Cardinals fell to the Giants 23-19...The Saints' defense shut down the Cowboys in a 22-3 rout. Dallas had a franchise-low 8 yards on 18 rushes and fell to 2-5 in games outside its division...Drew Bledsoe's 86-yard touchdown pass to Terry Glenn highlighted the Patriots' victory over the Steelers.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 33, Cincinnati 20
Denver 35, Kansas City 31
Miami 27, Oakland 17
New England 23, Pittsburgh 9
N.Y. Jets 32, Seattle 31
Tennessee 16, Baltimore 14

NFC
Minnesota 48, Chicago 22
New Orleans 22, Dallas 3
N.Y. Giants 23, Arizona 19
Philadelphia 17, St. Louis 14
San Francisco 31, Carolina 28 (OT)
Tampa Bay 24, Green Bay 22

Interconference
Atlanta 28, Indianapolis 21
Jacksonville 37, Detroit 22
Washington 24, San Diego 20
(Home teams in bold)

WEEK 14 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Miami	9	4	0	Jacksonville	10	3	0	Denver	13	0	0	Dallas	8	5	0	Minnesota	12	1	0	Atlanta	11	2	0
N.Y. Jets	9	4	0	Pittsburgh	7	6	0	Oakland	7	6	0	Arizona	6	7	0	Green Bay	8	5	0	San Francisco	10	3	0
Buffalo	8	5	0	Tennessee	7	6	0	Seattle	6	7	0	N.Y. Giants	5	8	0	Tampa Bay	6	7	0	New Orleans	6	7	0
New England	8	5	0	Baltimore	5	8	0	Kansas City	5	8	0	Washington	4	9	0	Detroit	5	8	0	St. Louis	3	10	0
Indianapolis	2	11	0	Cincinnati	2	11	0	San Diego	5	8	0	Philadelphia	3	10	0	Chicago	3	10	0	Carolina	2	11	0

TOP PERFORMANCES

TERANCE MATHIS

Terance Mathis caught 6 passes for 198 yards, including touchdown catches of 62 and 63 yards, as the Falcons won their seventh consecutive game, 27-17 over New Orleans. **Gary Anderson** kicked 6 field goals in Minnesota's 38-28 victory over Baltimore. He made all 29 of his field-goal tries in 1998 and an NFL-record 34 in a row dating to the 1997 season.

Garrison Hearst had 198 of the 49ers' 328 rushing yards in a 35-13 Monday night rout of Detroit. Both Hearst's yardage and the team's set club marks for one game.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Seattle's defense intercepted San Diego quarterbacks **Craig Whelihan** and **Ryan Leaf** 7 times in a 38-17 victory that kept the Seahawks' postseason hopes alive...Tampa Bay and Arizona kept pace in the race for a wild-card playoff berth in the NFC. The Cardinals edged Philadelphia 20-17 in overtime on **Chris Jacke's** 32-yard field goal. The Buccaneers beat Pittsburgh 16-3. The Steelers were in danger of missing the playoffs for the first time since 1991...The Ravens and Vikings set an NFL record by combining to return 3 kickoffs (2 by Baltimore) for touchdowns. Two of the returns came on successive plays.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 44, Oakland 21
Indianapolis 39, Cincinnati 26
N.Y. Jets 21, Miami 16
Seattle 38, San Diego 17
Tennessee 16, Jacksonville 13

NFC
Arizona 20, Philadelphia 17 (OT)
Atlanta 27, New Orleans 17
Green Bay 26, Chicago 20
San Francisco 35, Detroit 13
Washington 28, Carolina 25

Interconference
Kansas City 20, Dallas 17
Minnesota 38, Baltimore 28
N.Y. Giants 20, Denver 16
St. Louis 32, New England 18
Tampa Bay 16, Pittsburgh 3
(Home teams in bold)

BIG GAMES

Streak Ends in a New York Minute

Kent Graham's last-minute, 37-yard touchdown pass to Amani Toomer gave the New York Giants a 20-16 victory over Denver, ending the Broncos' hopes for a perfect season.

Denver was on the verge of extending its winning streak to an unprecedented 19 games (including playoffs) when it led 16-13 and had the Giants pinned on their 14-yard line with 1:49 left to play.

But Graham took only 52 seconds to move his team 49 yards to the Broncos' 37, then lofted the winning pass to Toomer, who cradled the ball just before he fell out of the back of the end zone with 48 seconds to go.

The Broncos, who were trying to join the 1972 Dolphins as the only NFL teams to go unbeaten and untied for an entire season, advanced to New York's 30-yard line on their final possession. But John Elway's desperation pass on the game's last play was batted away.

JIM TURNER

Kent Graham launched the touchdown pass that handed the Broncos their first loss of the season.

JAGUARS STALL

Jacksonville's drive to the AFC Central title hit a detour with a 16-13 loss to Tennessee.

The Jaguars, needing only one victory in their final three games to clinch the division, played without injured starting quarterback Mark Brunell, then lost backup Jamie Martin to a knee injury in the second quarter against the Oilers. Jacksonville's offense was left in the hands of Jonathan Quinn, a rookie who made his NFL debut.

Tennessee took advantage, erasing an early 10-0 deficit and winning on Al Del Greco's 41-yard field goal with four seconds left.

The Oilers won for the sixth time in nine games and remained in the division and wild-card chases.

JETS BREAK EASTERN BLOC

The New York Jets emerged from the logjam atop the AFC East with a 21-16 victory over Miami, putting them in position for their first division title since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970.

Vinny Testaverde passed for a touchdown, Curtis Martin ran for another, and linebacker Chad Cascadden returned a fumble 23 yards for the clinching touchdown with 1:51 left. The Jets opened a one-game lead over the Dolphins and Bills, and a two-game advantage over the Patriots.

AL PEREIRA

CURTIS MARTIN

Buffalo stayed in contention with a 44-21 victory over Oakland. Doug Flutie passed for 2 touchdowns in the first half, and the Bills' defense scored 2 touchdowns in the second half to put the game out of reach.

ROOKIE WATCH

JOE ROBBINS

Peyton Manning passed for 3 touchdowns in the Colts' 39-26 victory over the Bengals. Manning, the top pick in the 1998 draft, raised his season total to 24 touchdown passes, breaking an NFL rookie record (22) held by the New York Giants' Charlie Conerly for 50 years.

WEEK 15 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
N.Y. Jets	10	4	0	Jacksonville	10	4	0	Denver	13	1	0	Dallas	8	6	0	Minnesota	13	1	0	Atlanta	12	2	0
Buffalo	9	5	0	Tennessee	8	6	0	Oakland	7	7	0	Arizona	7	7	0	Green Bay	9	5	0	San Francisco	11	3	0
Miami	9	5	0	Pittsburgh	7	7	0	Seattle	7	7	0	N.Y. Giants	6	8	0	Tampa Bay	7	7	0	New Orleans	6	8	0
New England	8	6	0	Baltimore	5	9	0	Kansas City	6	8	0	Washington	5	9	0	Detroit	5	9	0	St. Louis	4	10	0
Indianapolis	3	11	0	Cincinnati	2	12	0	San Diego	5	9	0	Philadelphia	3	11	0	Chicago	3	11	0	Carolina	2	12	0

BIG GAMES

Divisions Wrapped Up Before Christmas

The New York Jets, Atlanta, and Dallas clinched division titles with victories, which meant that all six divisions were decided before the final weekend.

It also meant that for the first time since 1992, no division champion successfully defended its title.

In Buffalo, New York won its first AFC East championship by beating the Bills 17-10 behind Vinny Testaverde's 2 touchdown passes.

The Falcons won the NFC West for the first time in 18 years by rallying past Detroit 24-17. Atlanta coach Dan Reeves watched from the hospital, where he had quadruple heart bypass surgery earlier in the week. He was not expected to return until the playoffs.

The Cowboys qualified for the postseason for an NFL-record twenty-fifth time after a 13-9 victory over the Eagles. Dallas won the NFC East while raising its record to 7-0 against division opponents.

KEVIN TERRELL/NFLP

JAKE PLUMMER

CARDINALS' TAKE FLIGHT

The Cardinals moved to the brink of their first postseason berth in 16 years after a dramatic 19-17 victory over the Saints.

Chris Jacke's 36-yard field goal as time ran out won the game, but it was Jake Plummer's passing and scrambling that set up the finish. The second-year quarterback passed for 53 yards and ran for 25 on the winning 73-yard drive in the final 1:21.

Arizona controlled its destiny in a three-way race with the Buccaneers and Giants for the final wild-card spot in the NFC. Tampa Bay hurt its chances with a 20-16 loss at Washington; New York won its third consecutive game, beating Kansas City 28-7 to stay in the chase.

DUEL PURPOSE

Dan Marino outgunned John Elway, helping Miami secure the final wild-card playoff berth in the AFC by upending Denver 31-21 on Monday night.

The two high-profile quarterbacks met for the first time in 13 years and only the second time ever. Marino passed for 355 yards and 4 touchdowns, including 3 to Lamar Thomas in a decisive 10-minute stretch of the second and third quarters.

Elway completed only 13 of 36 passes for 151 yards and was intercepted twice. The Broncos lost their second consecutive game after opening the season with 13 victories.

JOHN H. REID

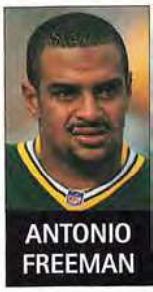
Wayne Chrebet's first-quarter touchdown catch got the Jets started in their title-clinching victory.

HE SAID IT

Bears coach Dave Wannstedt, after seldom used running back James Allen (right) keyed a 24-3 rout of Baltimore by rushing for 163 yards and a touchdown in his first career start: "We should have played him more, of course...hey, it's better late than never."

DAVID STLUKA

TOP PERFORMANCES



ANTONIO FREEMAN

Antonio Freeman caught touchdown passes of 57, 68, and 32 yards in the first half of Green Bay's 30-22 victory over Tennessee.

Ricky Watters rushed for 178 yards, including a 33-yard touchdown, and Seattle scored 17 points in the final 9:19 to beat Indianapolis 27-23.

Jamal Anderson rushed for 147 yards and scored 2 touchdowns in Atlanta's victory over Detroit. Anderson also broke Gerald Riggs's club-single-season record for rushing yards, finishing the game at 1,743 yards.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Denver's loss to Miami left Minnesota with the league's best record at 14-1. The Vikings blasted injury-riddled Jacksonville 50-10 to clinch home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs...Cincinnati won only its third game, but its second over Pittsburgh, a 25-24 victory that eliminated the Steelers from postseason contention... New England secured a wild-card spot by beating San Francisco 24-21 on Adam Vinatieri's 35-yard field goal with three seconds left. The Patriots' Scott Zolak started at quarterback in place of injured Drew Bledsoe and passed for 2 touchdowns.

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 25, Pittsburgh 24
Miami 31, Denver 21
N.Y. Jets 17, Buffalo 10
Oakland 17, San Diego 10
Seattle 27, Indianapolis 23

NFC
Arizona 19, New Orleans 17
Atlanta 24, Detroit 17
Carolina 20, St. Louis 13
Dallas 13, Philadelphia 9
Washington 20, Tampa Bay 16

Interconference
Chicago 24, Baltimore 3
Green Bay 30, Tennessee 22
Minnesota 50, Jacksonville 10
New England 24, San Francisco 21
N.Y. Giants 28, Kansas City 7
(Home teams in bold)

WEEK 16 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Jets	11	4	0
Miami	10	5	0
Buffalo	9	6	0
New England	9	6	0
Indianapolis	3	12	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	10	5	0
Tennessee	8	7	0
Pittsburgh	7	8	0
Baltimore	5	10	0
Cincinnati	3	12	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	13	2	0
Oakland	8	7	0
Seattle	8	7	0
Kansas City	6	9	0
San Diego	5	10	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	9	6	0
Arizona	8	7	0
N.Y. Giants	7	8	0
Washington	6	9	0
Philadelphia	3	12	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Minnesota	14	1	0
Green Bay	10	5	0
Tampa Bay	7	8	0
Detroit	5	10	0
Chicago	4	11	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Atlanta	13	2	0
San Francisco	11	4	0
New Orleans	6	9	0
St. Louis	4	11	0
Carolina	3	12	0

TOP PERFORMANCES

ROB JOHNSON

Rob Johnson started in place of injured Doug Flutie and passed for 3 touchdowns and ran for another in Buffalo's 45-33 victory over the Saints.

Safety **Kwamie Lassiter** tied an NFL record by intercepting 4 passes in Arizona's victory over San Diego.

John Elway passed for 338 yards and 4 touchdowns while directing the Broncos to 511 total yards in their victory over Seattle.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

San Francisco's 38-19 victory over St. Louis was the 49ers' seventeenth in a row over the Rams...The Jets beat New England 31-10 to finish 12-4 after an 0-2 start. New York won 12 of 13 games with **Vinny Testaverde** as its starting quarterback...Dallas beat Washington 23-7 to complete the season 8-0 against the other clubs in its division—the first time any NFC East team won all its games against its division rivals...The Giants, who beat Philadelphia 20-10, closed with four consecutive victories, but it was not enough to overtake Arizona for the final playoff spot...The most telling team statistic this season was turnover margin: 11 of the top 12 teams in that category made the playoffs (Green Bay, the only playoff team not in the top 12, finished twenty-eighth).

SCORES

AFC
Denver 28, Seattle 21
Jacksonville 21, Pittsburgh 3
Kansas City 31, Oakland 24
N.Y. Jets 31, New England 10

NFC
Dallas 23, Washington 7
Green Bay 16, Chicago 13
N.Y. Giants 20, Philadelphia 10
San Francisco 38, St. Louis 19

Interconference
Arizona 16, San Diego 13
Atlanta 38, Miami 16
Baltimore 19, Detroit 10
Buffalo 45, New Orleans 33
Carolina 27, Indianapolis 19
Minnesota 26, Tennessee 16
Tampa Bay 35, Cincinnati 0
(Home teams in bold)

BIG GAMES

Arizona Ends Desert Drought

Chris Jacke's dramatic 52-yard field goal as time expired lifted Arizona to a 16-13 victory over San Diego to put the Cardinals in the playoffs for the first time since the 1982 season.

Arizona kicked a field goal on the final play for the third consecutive week to secure the last of the 12 postseason berths.

The Chargers nearly spoiled the celebration in Tempe by tying the score at 13-13 on Craig Whelihan's fourth-down, 30-yard touchdown pass to Ryan Thelwell with 16 seconds left. But Eric Metcalf returned the ensuing kickoff 46 yards before Jake Plummer completed a 10-yard pass to Frank Sanders that set up Jacke's winning kick.

DAVIS RUNS FOR 2,008

Denver's Terrell Davis won his first rushing title and became the fourth player in NFL history to run for more than 2,000 yards in a season.

JOE POELLOT

TERRELL DAVIS

Davis rushed for 178 yards on 29 carries in the Broncos' 28-21 victory over the Seahawks to finish the season with 2,008 yards. Eric Dickerson, Barry Sanders, and O.J. Simpson are the only other players to surpass 2,000 rushing yards.

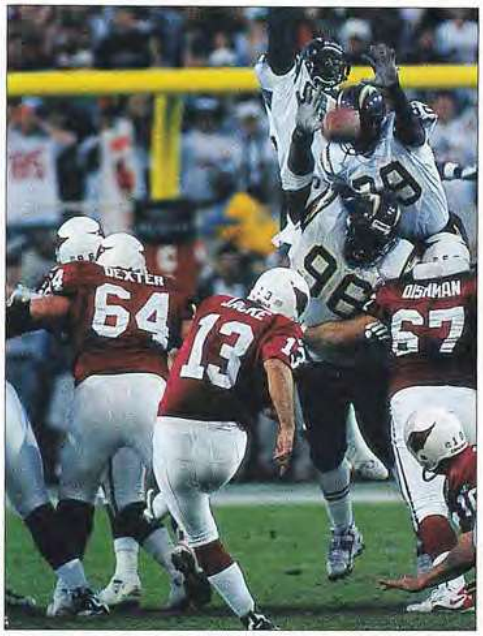
Denver snapped its two-game losing streak by winning its twenty-fourth consecutive regular-season game at Mile High Stadium.

VIKINGS CRUISE

Minnesota beat Tennessee 26-16 for its eighth consecutive victory and fifteenth this season.

The Vikings became only the third team to finish 15-1 (the 1984 49ers and 1985 Bears each went on to win the Super Bowl) and set an NFL record with 556 points.

Gary Anderson kicked 3 field goals and a conversion to finish the regular season with 164 points, the most ever scored solely by kicking. He also became the first kicker in league history to complete a perfect season—35 field goals and 59 extra points without a miss.



MIKE MOORE

Chris Jacke put the Cardinals in the playoffs for the first time in 16 years with this winning kick.

FALCON CREST

O.J. Santiago caught a 62-yard touchdown pass on the game's first play, and Atlanta cruised to an easy 38-16 victory over Miami. The Falcons won their franchise-record fourteenth game of 1998.

Jamal Anderson rushed 18 times to set an NFL single-season record with 410 attempts. He also established club single-season marks for rushing yards (1,846) and touchdowns (16).

RECORD WATCH

JAMES D. SMITH

Emmitt Smith had 2 touchdown runs in the Cowboys' victory over the Redskins to set an NFL record with 125 career rushing touchdowns. The nine-year veteran, who scored on runs of 1 and 26 yards, broke the record of 123 set by Marcus Allen in a 16-year career with the Raiders and Chiefs.

FINAL STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Jets	12	4	0
Miami	10	6	0
Buffalo	10	6	0
New England	9	7	0
Indianapolis	3	13	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	11	5	0
Tennessee	8	8	0
Pittsburgh	7	9	0
Baltimore	6	10	0
Cincinnati	3	13	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	14	2	0
Oakland	8	8	0
Seattle	8	8	0
Kansas City	7	9	0
San Diego	5	11	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	10	6	0
Arizona	9	7	0
N.Y. Giants	8	8	0
Washington	6	10	0
Philadelphia	3	13	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Minnesota	15	1	0
Green Bay	11	5	0
Tampa Bay	8	8	0
Detroit	5	11	0
Chicago	4	12	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Atlanta	14	2	0
San Francisco	12	4	0
New Orleans	6	10	0
Carolina	4	12	0
St. Louis	4	12	0

Lending a Helping Hand

Sometimes, all it takes is a helping hand. That's where NFL Charities comes in. As one of the most important outreach programs of the National Football League, NFL Charities has aided people and organizations all over America.

Since its founding in 1973 by former NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle, NFL Charities has distributed more than $32 million to worthy recipients in four main areas: education, physical fitness, youth football development, and player health and safety. The work of NFL Charities continues to be one of the proudest accomplishments of the NFL and its member clubs.

As the NFL concludes its seventy-ninth season, NFL Charities will continue to play a leading role in communities across the nation, lending a hand whenever it can.

NFL CHARITIES
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A Tradition of Caring

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WILD-CARD GAMES

MIAMI 24, BUFFALO 17

Dolphins Sack Comeback Bid

Miami held off Buffalo 24-17 at Pro Player Stadium with a balanced effort on offense and a key takeaway on defense.

Karim Abdul-Jabbar rushed for 95 yards and a touchdown, and Dan Marino passed for 235 yards and a touchdown for the Dolphins, who won their first playoff game in Jimmy Johnson's three seasons as coach.

TRACE ARMSTRONG
ALLEN KEE

Marino's touchdown pass, an 11-yard strike to Lamar Thomas, gave Miami a seemingly comfortable 24-14 lead with just 3:42 left.

But the Bills marched 65 yards to Steve Christie's 33-yard field goal with 1:33 left, then recovered an onside kick at their 31-yard line. Doug Flutie completed a 30-yard pass to Eric Moulds on the next play, and Buffalo eventually reached the Dolphins' 5 with 17 seconds left. But Flutie fumbled when he was sacked by defensive end Trace Armstrong, and Shane Burton recovered at the 3 to secure Miami's victory.

ARIZONA 20, DALLAS 7

Cardinals Rule the NFC East

Jake Plummer passed for 2 touchdowns to lead Arizona to its first postseason victory in 51 years, a 20-7 surprise of Dallas.

The host Cowboys had cruised to the NFC East title on the strength of an 8-0 record against division opponents, including 38-10 and 35-28 victories over Arizona. But the Cardinals, who had not played in a postseason game since the 1982 season and had not won one since the 1947 NFL Championship Game, jumped to a 7-0 lead on Plummer's 12-yard touchdown pass to Adrian Murrell 12:13 into the first quarter.

AENEAS WILLIAMS
JAMES D. SMITH

Arizona led 10-0 at intermission, then put the game away on Plummer's 3-yard touchdown pass to Larry Centers 1:16 into the second half. Murrell set up the score with a 74-yard run on the previous play.

Cornerback Aeneas Williams had 2 interceptions for the Cardinals, who held Dallas scoreless until only 3:33 remained in the game.

JACKSONVILLE 25, NEW ENGLAND 10

Jaguars Find Mark, Beat Patriots

The Jaguars, hosting the first home playoff game in franchise history, beat the Patriots 25-10 behind the running of Fred Taylor and a timely touchdown pass by Mark Brunell.

Taylor, a rookie first-round draft pick who took over as Jacksonville's featured back when starter James Stewart was injured in week 3, carried 33 times for 162 yards. He set up the second of Mike Hollis's 2 first-quarter field goals with a 46-yard run, then had a 13-yard touchdown run in the second quarter to give the Jaguars a 12-0 lead at halftime.

FRED TAYLOR
ALLEN KEE

New England trimmed its deficit to 12-10 early in the fourth quarter. But Brunell, playing for the first time after missing the final three regular-season games with an ankle injury, completed a 37-yard touchdown pass to Jimmy Smith, and Hollis kicked 2 more field goals.

SAN FRANCISCO 30, GREEN BAY 27

San Francisco Ends Packers' Reign

Steve Young drilled a 25-yard touchdown pass to Terrell Owens with three seconds left to give the 49ers a thrilling 30-27 victory over the Packers at 3Com Park.

Green Bay, which eliminated San Francisco from the playoffs each of the past three seasons, appeared to deal the 49ers another fatal blow when Brett Favre passed 15 yards to Antonio Freeman for a touchdown with 1:56 remaining.

But San Francisco rallied behind Young, who completed 7 of 9 passes on the ensuing 76-yard touchdown drive, and Owens, who dropped several passes earlier in the game but hung on to the winning catch even though he was sandwiched by Packers safeties Darren Sharper and Pat Terrell.

It was the fifth, and last, time the lead changed hands in the game that ended the Packers' two-year reign as NFC champions.

TERRELL OWENS
GREG TROTT

AFC NFL WILD CARD WEEKEND NFC

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

DENVER 38, MIAMI 3

Broncos, Davis Run Roughshod

The Broncos avenged an upset loss in Miami three weeks earlier by handing the Dolphins their worst postseason loss ever, 38-3.

Denver dominated from the start, marching 92 yards to a touchdown on its first possession. Terrell Davis's 1-yard touchdown run capped the 14-play drive that consumed 7:56.

TERRELL DAVIS
WILLIAM SALLAZ

Davis, who rushed 2,008 yards during the regular season but had only 29 in the 31-21 loss to Miami in week 16, ran 20 yards for a touchdown and a 14-0 lead the next time the Broncos had the ball. He went on to gain 199 yards on 21 carries.

Denver led 24-3 through three quarters, then put the finishing touches on its victory with a pair of big plays early in the fourth quarter. John Elway passed 28 yards to Rod Smith for a touchdown with 13:23 to play, and defensive end Neil Smith returned a fumble 79 yards for a touchdown at the 9:49 mark.

ATLANTA 20, SAN FRANCISCO 18

Falcons Soar to New Heights

Atlanta coach Dan Reeves returned to the sideline four weeks after heart bypass surgery, and his Falcons held off San Francisco 20-18 to reach the NFC Championship Game for the first time.

JAMAL ANDERSON
JAMES D. SMITH

Jamal Anderson had touchdown runs of 2 and 34 yards as the Falcons built a 14-0 advantage late in the first half. By halftime, however, the 49ers had trimmed the deficit to four points. Steve Young passed 17 yards to Jerry Rice for a touchdown 1:10 before intermission, and an interception set up Wade Richey's 36-yard field goal as time ran out.

Atlanta regained control in the second half, turning interceptions by Eugene Robinson and William White into short field goals by Morten Andersen for a 20-10 lead 4:27 into the fourth quarter.

Young ran 8 yards for a touchdown with 2:57 left, but White intercepted his desperation pass at the Falcons' 35 on the final play.

N.Y. JETS 34, JACKSONVILLE 24

Johnson Keys Jets' Victory

Wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson led the Jets to a 34-24 victory over Jacksonville that earned New York a berth in the AFC Championship Game against Denver.

Johnson caught a 21-yard touchdown pass, recovered a fumble at the end of a Jaguars' fumble return, and ran 10 yards for a touchdown on an end-around play as the Jets built a 17-0 first-half lead. Then he sealed New York's victory by intercepting a desperation pass by Jacksonville's Mark Brunell with nine seconds left.

The Jets controlled the football much of the game, maintaining possession for nearly 40 minutes and outgaining the Jaguars 429 yards to 251. Vinny Testaverde passed for 284 yards, while Curtis Martin rushed 36 times for 124 yards.

KEYSHAWN JOHNSON
ALLEN KEE

MINNESOTA 41, ARIZONA 21

Razing Arizona: Vikings Win Easily

Randall Cunningham passed for 3 touchdowns and Leroy Hoard scored 3 touchdowns as the Vikings overwhelmed the Cardinals 41-21.

Minnesota, which set an NFL record for points scored en route to winning 15 regular-season games, jumped to a 17-0 lead in the first 19 minutes and never was seriously threatened.

Hoard's 1-yard touchdown run capped the game's opening drive, a 13-play, 80-yard march that took 7:20. Early in the second quarter, safety Robert Griffith intercepted passes from Arizona's Jake Plummer on consecutive possessions. The first led to Cunningham's 15-yard touchdown pass to Andrew Glover, the second to Gary Anderson's 34-yard field goal 11:24 before halftime.

LEROY HOARD
AL MESSERSCHMIDT

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS NFL AFC NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS NFL

DENVER 23, N.Y. JETS 10

Broncos Start Slow, Finish Fast

The Broncos, held in check for more than two quarters by the upstart Jets, exploded with 20 points in a 10-minute span of the third quarter, then went on to beat New York 23-10 to earn the right to defend their NFL championship in Super Bowl XXXIII.

Blake Spence's blocked punt set up Curtis Martin's 1-yard touchdown run, giving the Jets a 10-0 lead 3:04 into the third quarter. But Denver, which had managed just 120 total yards to that point, took only three plays to counter with its first score. Quarterback John Elway completed a 47-yard bomb to Ed McCaffrey, and two plays later teamed with fullback Howard Griffith on an 11-yard touchdown pass.

GLENN CADREZ (59)
TOM HAUCK/ALLSPORT

That opened the floodgates. Jason Elam's ensuing kickoff got hung up in the mile-high wind and landed at the Jets' 31, where Denver's Keith Burns recovered. That play set up Elam's 44-yard field goal, which tied the game with 8:23 left in the third quarter.

New York failed to make a first down on its next two possessions, and the Broncos took advantage. Elam kicked a 48-yard field goal to give the Broncos their first lead, and Terrell Davis rushed 31 yards for a touchdown to break open the game in the final minute of the period.

Elam added his third field goal, from 35 yards with 3:40 remaining in the game, to seal the victory.

The third quarter represented a dramatic turnaround for the Jets, who dominated much of the first half but led only 3-0 at intermission. New York squandered its first-half domination thanks to a series of miscues, including a missed field goal on its first possession and a fumble in Denver territory on its second. The Jets committed 6 turnovers, losing 4 fumbles and 2 interceptions.

The Broncos, meanwhile, committed none. Davis rushed for 167 yards on 32 carries and equaled an NFL record with six consecutive 100-yard rushing games in the playoffs. Elway overcame a slow start to pass for 173 yards.

ATLANTA 30, MINNESOTA 27

Falcons Work Overtime to Win

Morten Andersen's 38-yard field goal 11:52 into overtime lifted the Falcons to a stunning 30-27 victory over Minnesota and into the Super Bowl for the first time in franchise history.

Andersen's kick capped a remarkable comeback for Atlanta, which trailed the heavily favored Vikings by as many as 13 points in the first half. The Falcons closed to 27-20 in the fourth quarter, but Chris Chandler's fourth-down pass from Minnesota's 24-yard line fell incomplete with 6:07 remaining.

The Vikings then drove 54 yards to Gary Anderson's 38-yard field-goal try with a little more than two minutes remaining. But Anderson, who converted all of his extra-point and field-goal attempts during the regular season, missed the kick to the left, and Atlanta had one more opportunity.The Falcons took advantage, forcing overtime when Chandler passed 16 yards to Terance Mathis for the tying touchdown with 49 seconds remaining.

CHRIS CHANDLER
JOHN BAZEMORE/AP PHOTO

Minnesota won the overtime coin toss but failed to mount a serious scoring threat on either of its two possessions. Atlanta's second possession began on its 9-yard line, but Chandler completed passes of 15 and 26 yards to O.J. Santiago to set up the winning field goal.

Chandler finished with 27 completions in 43 attempts for 340 yards and 3 touchdowns. His 5-yard touchdown strike to Jamal Anderson capped the game's opening possession, a 12-play, 76-yard drive that consumed 6:39. It was only the second time all season that Minnesota failed to score first; the other was in its only regular-season loss to Tampa Bay in week 9.

The host Vikings rallied and appeared to have control of the game, leading 20-7 late in the first half. But Falcons defensive end Chuck Smith forced quarterback Randall Cunningham to fumble, leading to Chandler's 14-yard touchdown pass to Mathis 56 seconds before halftime. The score seemed to snatch momentum from Minnesota, whose high-powered offense managed only 7 points in the second half.

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AFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Lg.	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
Vinny Testaverde, NY Jets	421	259	61.5	3,256	7.73	29	6.9	82t	7	1.7	101.6
John Elway, Denver	356	210	59.0	2,806	7.88	22	6.2	58	10	2.8	93.0
Neil O'Donnell, Cincinnati	343	212	61.8	2,216	6.46	15	4.4	76t	4	1.2	90.2
Mark Brunell, Jacksonville	354	208	58.8	2,601	7.35	20	5.6	78t	9	2.5	89.9
Doug Flutie, Buffalo	354	202	57.1	2,711	7.66	20	5.6	84t	11	3.1	87.4
Drew Bledsoe, New England	481	263	54.7	3,633	7.55	20	4.2	86t	14	2.9	80.9
Steve McNair, Tennessee	492	289	58.7	3,228	6.56	15	3.0	47	10	2.0	80.1
Rich Gannon, Kansas City	354	206	58.2	2,305	6.51	10	2.8	80t	6	1.7	80.1
Dan Marino, Miami	537	310	57.7	3,497	6.51	23	4.3	61t	15	2.8	80.0
Warren Moon, Seattle	258	145	56.2	1,632	6.33	11	4.3	45	8	3.1	76.6

NFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Lg.	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
Randall Cunningham, Minn.	425	259	60.9	3,704	8.72	34	8.0	67t	10	2.4	106.0
Steve Young, San Francisco	517	322	62.3	4,170	8.07	36	7.0	81t	12	2.3	101.1
Chris Chandler, Atlanta	327	190	58.1	3,154	9.65	25	7.6	78t	12	3.7	100.9
Troy Aikman, Dallas	315	187	59.4	2,330	7.40	12	3.8	67t	5	1.6	88.5
Steve Beuerlein, Carolina	343	216	63.0	2,613	7.62	17	5.0	68t	12	3.5	88.2
Brett Favre, Green Bay	551	347	63.0	4,212	7.64	31	5.6	84t	23	4.2	87.8
Charlie Batch, Detroit	303	173	57.1	2,178	7.19	11	3.6	98t	6	2.0	83.5
Erik Kramer, Chicago	250	151	60.4	1,823	7.29	9	3.6	79t	7	2.8	83.1
Trent Green, Washington	509	278	54.6	3,441	6.76	23	4.5	75t	11	2.2	81.8
Jake Plummer, Arizona	547	324	59.2	3,737	6.83	17	3.1	57	20	3.7	75.0

AFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Terrell Davis, Denver	392	2,008	5.1	70	21
Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis	324	1,319	4.1	68t	6
Eddie George, Tennessee	348	1,294	3.7	37t	5
Curtis Martin, NY Jets	369	1,287	3.5	60t	8
Ricky Watters, Seattle	319	1,239	3.9	39t	9
Fred Taylor, Jacksonville	264	1,223	4.6	77t	14
Jerome Bettis, Pittsburgh	316	1,185	3.8	42	3
Corey Dillon, Cincinnati	262	1,130	4.3	66	4
Antowain Smith, Buffalo	300	1,124	3.7	30	8
Robert Edwards, New England	291	1,115	3.8	53	9

NFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Jamal Anderson, Atlanta	410	1,846	4.5	48	14
Garrison Hearst, San Francisco	310	1,570	5.1	96t	7
Barry Sanders, Detroit	343	1,491	4.3	73t	4
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	319	1,332	4.2	32	13
Robert Smith, Minnesota	249	1,187	4.8	74t	6
Duce Staley, Philadelphia	258	1,065	4.1	64t	5
Gary Brown, NY Giants	247	1,063	4.3	45	5
Adrian Murrell, Arizona	274	1,042	3.8	32	8
Warrick Dunn, Tampa Bay	245	1,026	4.2	50	2
Mike Alstott, Tampa Bay	215	846	3.9	37	8

AFC LEADING SCORERS, NONKICKERS

	TD	Rush.	Rec.	Ret.	Pts.
Terrell Davis, Denver	23	21	2	0	138
Fred Taylor, Jacksonville	17	14	3	0	102
Robert Edwards, New England	12	9	3	0	72
Joey Galloway, Seattle	12	0	10	2	72
Keyshawn Johnson, NY Jets	11	1	10	0	66
Ed McCaffrey, Denver*	10	0	10	0	62
Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis	10	6	4	0	60
Shannon Sharpe, Denver	10	0	10	0	60
Ricky Watters, Seattle*	9	9	0	0	56
Tim Brown, Oakland	9	0	9	0	54
Curtis Martin, NY Jets	9	8	1	0	54
Eric Moulds, Buffalo	9	0	9	0	54

*includes 2-point conversion

NFC LEADING SCORERS, NONKICKERS

	TD	Rush.	Rec.	Ret.	Pts.
Randy Moss, Minnesota**	17	0	17	0	106
Jamal Anderson, Atlanta*	16	14	2	0	98
Terrell Owens, San Francisco*	15	1	14	0	92
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	15	13	2	0	90
Antonio Freeman, Green Bay*	14	0	14	0	86
Cris Carter, Minnesota	12	0	12	0	72
Terance Mathis, Atlanta	11	0	11	0	66
Leroy Hoard, Minnesota	10	9	1	0	60
Adrian Murrell, Arizona	10	8	2	0	60
Jerry Rice, San Francisco**	9	0	9	0	58

*includes 2-point conversion; **includes two 2-point conversions

AFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Lg.	Pts.
Steve Christie, Buffalo	41/41	33/41	52	140
Al Del Greco, Tennessee	28/28	36/39	48	136
Jason Elam, Denver	58/58	23/27	63	127
Adam Vinatieri, New England	32/32	31/39	55	127
John Hall, NY Jets	45/46	25/35	54	120
Pete Stoyanovich, Kansas City	34/34	27/32	53	115
Mike Hollis, Jacksonville	45/45	21/26	47	108
Mike Vanderjagt, Indianapolis	23/23	27/31	53	104
Norm Johnson, Pittsburgh	21/21	26/31	49	99
Olindo Mare, Miami	33/34	22/27	48	99

NFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Lg.	Pts.
Gary Anderson, Minnesota	59/59	35/35	53	164
Ryan Longwell, Green Bay	41/43	29/33	45	128
Richie Cunningham, Dallas	40/40	29/35	54	127
Morten Andersen, Atlanta	51/52	23/28	53	120
Jason Hanson, Detroit	27/29	29/33	51	114
Wade Richey, San Francisco	49/51	18/27	46	103
Brad Daluiso, NY Giants	32/32	21/27	51	95
Michael Husted, Tampa Bay	29/30	21/28	52	92
John Kasay, Carolina	35/37	19/26	56	92
Doug Brien, New Orleans	31/31	20/22	56	91

AFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
O.J. McDuffie, Miami	90	1,050	11.7	61t	7
Rod Smith, Denver	86	1,222	14.2	58	6
Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis	86	908	10.6	78t	4
Keyshawn Johnson, NY Jets	83	1,131	13.6	41t	10
Carl Pickens, Cincinnati	82	1,023	12.5	67t	5
Tim Brown, Oakland	81	1,012	12.5	49	9
Jimmy Smith, Jacksonville	78	1,182	15.2	72t	8
Wayne Chrebet, NY Jets	75	1,083	14.4	63t	8
Frank Wycheck, Tennessee	70	768	11.0	38	2
Eric Moulds, Buffalo	67	1,368	20.4	84t	9
Ben Coates, New England	67	668	10.0	33	6

NFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Frank Sanders, Arizona	89	1,145	12.9	42	3
Antonio Freeman, Green Bay	84	1,424	17.0	84t	14
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	82	1,157	14.1	75t	9
Herman Moore, Detroit	82	983	12.0	36	5
Cris Carter, Minnesota	78	1,011	13.0	54t	12
Michael Irvin, Dallas	74	1,057	14.3	51	1
Randy Moss, Minnesota	69	1,313	19.0	61t	17
Johnnie Morton, Detroit	69	1,028	14.9	98t	2
Raghib Ismail, Carolina	69	1,024	14.8	62	8
Larry Centers, Arizona	69	559	8.1	54	2

AFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No.	Yds.	Lg.	Avg.
Craig Hentrich, Tennessee	69	3,258	71	47.2
Tom Rouen, Denver	66	3,097	76	46.9
Chris Gardocki, Indianapolis	79	3,583	62	45.4
Bryan Barker, Jacksonville	85	3,824	65	45.0
Lee Johnson, Cincinnati	69	3,083	69	44.7
Tom Tupa, New England	74	3,294	64	44.5
Jeff Feagles, Seattle	81	3,570	59	44.1
Darren Bennett, San Diego	95	4,174	65	43.9
Kyle Richardson, Baltimore	90	3,948	67	43.9
Josh Miller, Pittsburgh	81	3,530	73	43.6

NFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No.	Yds.	Lg.	Avg.
Mark Royals, New Orleans	88	4,017	64	45.6
Brad Maynard, NY Giants	101	4,566	63	45.2
Mitch Berger, Minnesota	55	2,458	67	44.7
Rick Tuten, St. Louis	95	4,202	64	44.2
Matt Turk, Washington	93	4,103	69	44.1
John Jett, Detroit	66	2,892	60	43.8
Toby Gowin, Dallas	77	3,342	65	43.4
Sean Landeta, Green Bay	65	2,788	72	42.9
Reggie Roby, San Francisco	60	2,511	66	41.9
Tom Hutton, Philadelphia	104	4,339	61	41.7

AFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Reggie Barlow, Jacksonville	43	555	12.9	85t	1
Jermaine Lewis, Baltimore	32	405	12.7	87t	2
Terrell Buckley, Miami	29	354	12.2	35	0
Latario Rachal, San Diego	32	387	12.1	56	0
Desmond Howard, Oakland	45	541	12.0	75t	2
Darrien Gordon, Denver	34	379	11.1	44	0
Joey Galloway, Seattle	25	251	10.0	74t	2
Kevin Williams, Buffalo	37	369	10.0	73	0
Tamarick Vanover, Kansas City	27	264	9.8	37	0
Damon Gibson, Cincinnati	27	218	8.1	65t	1

NFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Deion Sanders, Dallas	24	375	15.6	69t	2
Jacquez Green, Tampa Bay	30	453	15.1	95t	1
Andre Hastings, New Orleans	22	307	14.0	76	0
Glyn Milburn, Chicago	25	291	11.6	93t	1
Brian Mitchell, Washington	44	506	11.5	47	0
Winslow Oliver, Carolina	44	464	10.5	35	0
Eddie Kennison, St. Louis	40	415	10.4	71t	1
David Palmer, Minnesota	28	289	10.3	53	0
Roell Preston, Green Bay	44	398	9.0	71t	1
R.W. McQuarters, San Francisco	47	406	8.6	72t	1

AFC LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Corey Harris, Baltimore	35	965	27.6	95t	1
Steve Broussard, Seattle	29	781	26.9	90t	1
Vaughn Hebron, Denver	46	1,216	26.4	95t	1
Tremain Mack, Cincinnati	45	1,165	25.9	97t	1
John Avery, Miami	43	1,085	25.2	55	0
David Dunn, Cincinnati-Pittsburgh	21	525	25.0	44	0
Reggie Barlow, Jacksonville	30	747	24.9	91	0
Aaron Glenn, NY Jets	24	585	24.4	62	0
Derrick Cullors, New England	45	1,085	24.1	68	0
Tamarick Vanover, Kansas City	41	956	23.3	62	0

NFC LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Terry Fair, Detroit	51	1,428	28.0	105t	2
Tim Dwight, Atlanta	36	973	27.0	93t	1
Roell Preston, Green Bay	57	1,497	26.3	101t	2
Michael Bates, Carolina	58	1,467	25.3	99t	1
Glyn Milburn, Chicago	62	1,550	25.0	94t	2
Kevin Mathis, Dallas	25	621	24.8	42	0
Allen Rossum, Philadelphia	44	1,080	24.5	54	0
Reidel Anthony, Tampa Bay	46	1,118	24.3	60	0
David Palmer, Minnesota	50	1,176	23.5	88t	1
Tony Horne, St. Louis	56	1,306	23.3	102t	1

AFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	Int.	Yds.	Lg.	TD
Ty Law, New England	9	133	59t	1
Terrell Buckley, Miami	8	157	61	1
Sam Madison, Miami	8	114	35	0
Shawn Springs, Seattle	7	142	56t	2
Rod Woodson, Baltimore	6	108	60t	2
Lawyer Milloy, New England	6	54	30t	1
Greg Jackson, San Diego	6	50	25	0
Kurt Schulz, Buffalo	6	48	24	0
Aaron Glenn, NY Jets	6	23	26	0
Dewayne Washington, Pittsburgh	5	178	78t	2
Charles Woodson, Oakland	5	118	46t	1
Eric Allen, Oakland	5	59	22	0
Duane Starks, Baltimore	5	3	2	0

NFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	Int.	Yds.	Lg.	TD
Kwamie Lassiter, Arizona	8	80	29	0
Jimmy Hitchcock, Minnesota	7	242	79t	3
Ray Buchanan, Atlanta	7	102	34	0
Sammy Knight, New Orleans	6	171	91t	2
Deion Sanders, Dallas	5	153	71t	1
Percy Ellsworth, NY Giants	5	92	43t	2
Eric Davis, Carolina	5	81	56t	2
Tyrone Williams, Green Bay	5	40	15	0
Robert Griffith, Minnesota	5	25	17	0
Ronald McKinnon, Arizona	5	25	17	0

Most men will have an isolated erection problem at some time in their lives, but for others it happens more frequently. If the inability to respond naturally to your partner has become a recurring problem, you may be suffering from a treatable medical condition called erectile dysfunction (ED), also known as impotence. The following questions and answers are designed to give you a brief introduction to the causes of ED and the various treatment options available. If you believe you are suffering from ED, or want to know more about the condition, talk to your doctor or other healthcare professional.

Erectile dysfunction: what every man should know

What is ED?

Erectile dysfunction is the consistent inability to achieve and/or maintain an erection sufficient for satisfactory sexual activity. That means not just an occasional problem, but one that has been occurring repeatedly for a period of time. It's a widespread condition, shared by approximately 30 million men in the United States.

What causes ED?

It was once believed that ED is all in your head, or just an inevitable result of getting older. Actually, the majority of ED cases are associated with physical conditions or events, including some that are age-related. The most common risk factors for ED include:

- *Diabetes, high blood pressure, hardening of the arteries, or high cholesterol*
- *Injury or illness, such as spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, depression, stroke, or surgery for the prostate or colon*
- *Medications that may bring about ED as an unwanted side effect*
- *Cigarette smoking or alcohol/drug abuse*
- *Psychological conditions, such as anxiety and stress*

If you want to know more about ED, talk to your doctor.

Can erectile dysfunction be treated?

Yes. The good news is that, regardless of the cause, the vast majority of ED cases are treatable. Patients have a variety of treatment options from which to choose, including oral medication, hand-held vacuum pumps, self-administered injections, pellet suppositories, and surgical implants.

Can anyone use these treatments?

It's important to remember that these treatments are not for everyone, but only for men diagnosed with ED. You and your doctor can determine the appropriate treatment for you. Because sexual activity can be demanding on the heart, you should talk to your doctor before using any treatment for ED.

How do I know if I have ED?

If you have erection problems, you probably already know it. But before your condition can be treated, you need to be diagnosed by your doctor. There is no need to be embarrassed or ashamed when discussing ED with your doctor. He or she has probably diagnosed and treated ED many times. Your doctor can provide you with understanding, support, and best of all, information.

To diagnose ED, doctors typically ask a few specific questions and give a routine physical exam. This should help your doctor arrive at a diagnosis. Before starting any treatment for ED, ask your doctor if your heart is healthy enough to handle the extra strain of having sex.

Based on this information, you and your doctor will decide on the treatment that is best for you.

REMEMBER:

ED is a common medical condition.

It's not an inevitable result of growing older.

ED is treatable with a variety of methods.

Only your doctor can prescribe the appropriate treatment.

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers
*Jimmy Smith, Jacksonville
*Ed McCaffrey, Denver
Eric Moulds, Buffalo
Keyshawn Johnson, N.Y. Jets

Tackles
*Tony Boselli, Jacksonville
*Jonathan Ogden, Baltimore
Tony Jones, Denver

Guards
*Ruben Brown, Buffalo
*Bruce Matthews, Tennessee
Will Shields, Kansas City

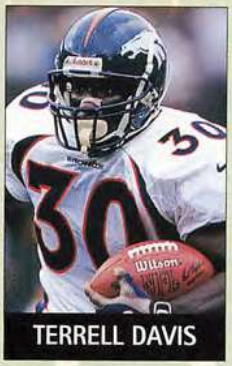
Centers
*Dermontti Dawson, Pittsburgh
Tom Nalen, Denver

Tight Ends
*Shannon Sharpe, Denver
Ben Coates, New England

Quarterbacks
*John Elway, Denver
Vinny Testaverde, N.Y. Jets
Doug Flutie, Buffalo

Running Backs
*Terrell Davis, Denver
*Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis
Eddie George, Tennessee

Fullback
Sam Gash, Buffalo


MITCHELL B. REIBEL
TERRELL DAVIS

DEFENSE

Ends
*Michael McCrary, Baltimore
*Bruce Smith, Buffalo
Michael Sinclair, Seattle

Defensive Linemen
*Darrell Russell, Oakland
*Tim Bowens, Miami
Ted Washington, Buffalo

Outside Linebackers
*Chad Brown, Seattle
*Mo Lewis, N.Y. Jets
Bill Romanowski, Denver

Inside Linebackers
*Junior Seau, San Diego
Ray Lewis, Baltimore

Cornerbacks
*Ty Law, New England
*Aaron Glenn, N.Y. Jets
Shawn Springs, Seattle

Strong Safeties
*Rodney Harrison, San Diego
Lawyer Milloy, New England

Free Safety
*Steve Atwater, Denver

SPECIALISTS

Punter
Craig Hentrich, Tennessee

Kicker
Jason Elam, Denver

Kick Returner
Jermaine Lewis, Baltimore

Special-Teams Player
Bennie Thompson, Baltimore

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers
*Randy Moss, Minnesota
*Antonio Freeman, Green Bay
Cris Carter, Minnesota
Jerry Rice, San Francisco

Tackles
*Larry Allen, Dallas
*William Roaf, New Orleans
Todd Steussie, Minnesota

Guards
*Randall McDaniel, Minnesota
*Kevin Gogan, San Francisco
Nate Newton, Dallas

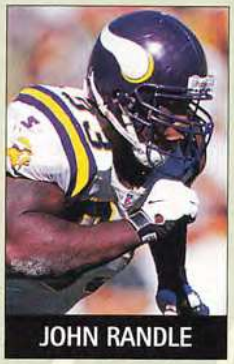
Centers
*Jeff Christy, Minnesota
Tony Mayberry, Tampa Bay

Tight Ends
*Mark Chmura,Green Bay
Wesley Walls, Carolina

Quarterbacks
*Steve Young, San Francisco
Randall Cunningham, Minnesota
Chris Chandler, Atlanta

Running Backs
*Barry Sanders, Detroit
*Jamal Anderson, Atlanta
Garrison Hearst, San Francisco

Fullback
Mike Alstott, Tampa Bay


TONY TOMSIC
JOHN RANDLE

DEFENSE

Ends
*Reggie White, Green Bay
*Michael Strahan, N.Y. Giants
Joe Johnson, New Orleans

Defensive Linemen
*John Randle, Minnesota
*Warren Sapp, Tampa Bay
Leon Lett, Dallas

Outside Linebackers
*Derrick Brooks, Tampa Bay
*Kevin Greene, Carolina
Jessie Armstead, N.Y. Giants

Inside Linebackers
*Jessie Tuggle, Atlanta
Ed McDaniel, Minnesota

Cornerbacks
*Deion Sanders, Dallas
*Ray Buchanan, Atlanta
Aeneas Williams, Arizona

Strong Safeties
*LeRoy Butler, Green Bay
Darren Woodson, Dallas

Free Safety
*Eugene Robinson, Atlanta

SPECIALISTS

Punter
Matt Turk, Washington

Kicker
Gary Anderson, Minnesota

Kick Returner
Roell Preston, Green Bay

Special-Teams Player
Michael Bates, Carolina

*denotes starter

HAWAII 1999 PRO BOWL 20 YEARS OF ALOHA NFL

1998

AFC RESULTS & STANDINGS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Sept. 6	PITTSBURGH	13-20
Sept. 13	at New York Jets	24-10
Sept. 20	at Jacksonville	10-24
Sept. 27	CINCINNATI	31-24
Oct. 4	Open Date	
Oct. 11	TENNESSEE	8-12
Oct. 18	at Pittsburgh	6-16
Oct. 25	at Green Bay	10-28
Nov. 1	JACKSONVILLE	19-45
Nov. 8	OAKLAND	13-10
Nov. 15	at San Diego	13-14
Nov. 22	at Cincinnati	20-13
Nov. 29	INDIANAPOLIS	38-31
Dec. 6	at Tennessee	14-16
Dec. 13	MINNESOTA	28-38
Dec. 20	at Chicago	3-24
Dec. 27	DETROIT	19-10

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 6	at San Diego	14-16
Sept. 13	at Miami	7-13
Sept. 20	ST. LOUIS	33-34
Sept. 27	Open Date	
Oct. 4	SAN FRANCISCO	26-21
Oct. 11	at Indianapolis	31-24
Oct. 18	JACKSONVILLE	17-16
Oct. 25	at Carolina	30-14
Nov. 1	MIAMI	30-24
Nov. 8	at New York Jets	12-34
Nov. 15	NEW ENGLAND	13-10
Nov. 22	INDIANAPOLIS	34-11
Nov. 29	at New England	21-25
Dec. 6	at Cincinnati	33-20
Dec. 13	OAKLAND	44-21
Dec. 19	NEW YORK JETS (Sat.)	10-17
Dec. 27	at New Orleans	45-33

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 6	TENNESSEE	14-23
Sept. 13	at Detroit	*34-28
Sept. 20	GREEN BAY	6-13
Sept. 27	at Baltimore	24-31
Oct. 4	Open Date	
Oct. 11	PITTSBURGH	25-20
Oct. 18	at Tennessee	14-44
Oct. 25	at Oakland	10-27
Nov. 1	DENVER	26-33
Nov. 8	at Jacksonville	11-24
Nov. 15	at Minnesota	3-24
Nov. 22	BALTIMORE	13-20
Nov. 29	JACKSONVILLE	17-34
Dec. 6	BUFFALO	20-33
Dec. 13	at Indianapolis	26-39
Dec. 20	at Pittsburgh	25-24
Dec. 27	TAMPA BAY	0-35

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 7	NEW ENGLAND (Mon.)	27-21
Sept. 13	DALLAS	42-23
Sept. 20	at Oakland	34-17
Sept. 27	at Washington	38-16
Oct. 4	PHILADELPHIA	41-16
Oct. 11	at Seattle	21-16
Oct. 18	Open Date	
Oct. 25	JACKSONVILLE	37-24
Nov. 1	at Cincinnati	33-26
Nov. 8	SAN DIEGO	27-10
Nov. 16	at Kansas City (Mon.)	30-7
Nov. 22	OAKLAND	40-14
Nov. 29	at San Diego	31-16
Dec. 6	KANSAS CITY	35-31
Dec. 13	at New York Giants	16-20
Dec. 21	at Miami (Mon.)	21-31
Dec. 27	SEATTLE	28-21

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Sept. 6	MIAMI	15-24
Sept. 13	at New England	6-29
Sept. 20	at New York Jets	6-44
Sept. 27	NEW ORLEANS	*13-19
Oct. 4	SAN DIEGO	17-12
Oct. 11	BUFFALO	24-31
Oct. 18	at San Francisco	31-34
Oct. 25	Open Date	
Nov. 1	NEW ENGLAND	16-21
Nov. 8	at Miami	14-27
Nov. 15	NEW YORK JETS	24-23
Nov. 22	at Buffalo	11-34
Nov. 29	at Baltimore	31-38
Dec. 6	at Atlanta	21-28
Dec. 13	CINCINNATI	39-26
Dec. 20	at Seattle	23-27
Dec. 27	CAROLINA	19-27

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Sept. 6	at Chicago	24-23
Sept. 13	KANSAS CITY	21-16
Sept. 20	BALTIMORE	24-10
Sept. 27	at Tennessee	27-22
Oct. 4	Open Date	
Oct. 12	MIAMI (Mon.)	28-21
Oct. 18	at Buffalo	16-17
Oct. 25	at Denver	24-37
Nov. 1	at Baltimore	45-19
Nov. 8	CINCINNATI	24-11
Nov. 15	TAMPA BAY	29-24
Nov. 22	at Pittsburgh	15-30
Nov. 29	at Cincinnati	34-17
Dec. 6	DETROIT	37-22
Dec. 13	TENNESSEE	13-16
Dec. 20	at Minnesota	10-50
Dec. 28	PITTSBURGH (Mon.)	21-3

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept. 6	OAKLAND	28-8
Sept. 13	at Jacksonville	16-21
Sept. 20	SAN DIEGO	23-7
Sept. 27	at Philadelphia	24-21
Oct. 4	SEATTLE	17-6
Oct. 11	at New England	10-40
Oct. 18	Open Date	
Oct. 26	PITTSBURGH (Mon.)	13-20
Nov. 1	NEW YORK JETS	17-20
Nov. 8	at Seattle	12-24
Nov. 16	DENVER (Mon.)	7-30
Nov. 22	at San Diego	37-38
Nov. 29	ARIZONA	34-24
Dec. 6	at Denver	31-35
Dec. 13	DALLAS	20-17
Dec. 20	at N. Y. Giants	7-28
Dec. 26	at Oakland (Sat.)	31-24

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 6	at Indianapolis	24-15
Sept. 13	BUFFALO	13-7
Sept. 20	PITTSBURGH	21-0
Sept. 27	Open Date	
Oct. 4	at New York Jets	9-20
Oct. 12	at Jacksonville (Mon.)	21-28
Oct. 18	ST. LOUIS	14-0
Oct. 25	NEW ENGLAND	*12-9
Nov. 1	at Buffalo	24-30
Nov. 8	INDIANAPOLIS	27-14
Nov. 15	at Carolina	13-9
Nov. 23	at New England (Mon.)	23-26
Nov. 29	NEW ORLEANS	30-10
Dec. 6	at Oakland	27-17
Dec. 13	NEW YORK JETS	16-21
Dec. 21	DENVER (Mon.)	31-21
Dec. 27	at Atlanta	16-38

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 7	at Denver (Mon.)	21-27
Sept. 13	INDIANAPOLIS	29-6
Sept. 20	TENNESSEE	27-16
Sept. 27	Open Date	
Oct. 4	at New Orleans	30-27
Oct. 11	KANSAS CITY	40-10
Oct. 19	NEW YORK JETS (Mon.)	14-24
Oct. 25	at Miami	*9-12
Nov. 1	at Indianapolis	21-16
Nov. 8	ATLANTA	10-41
Nov. 15	at Buffalo	10-13
Nov. 23	MIAMI (Mon.)	26-23
Nov. 29	BUFFALO	25-21
Dec. 6	at Pittsburgh	23-9
Dec. 13	at St. Louis	18-32
Dec. 20	SAN FRANCISCO	24-21
Dec. 27	at New York Jets	10-31

NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 6	at San Francisco	*30-36
Sept. 13	BALTIMORE	10-24
Sept. 20	INDIANAPOLIS	44-6
Sept. 27	Open Date	
Oct. 4	MIAMI	20-9
Oct. 11	at St. Louis	10-30
Oct. 19	at New England (Mon.)	24-14
Oct. 25	ATLANTA	28-3
Nov. 1	at Kansas City	20-17
Nov. 8	BUFFALO	34-12
Nov. 15	at Indianapolis	23-24
Nov. 22	at Tennessee	24-3
Nov. 29	CAROLINA	48-21
Dec. 6	SEATTLE	32-31
Dec. 13	at Miami	21-16
Dec. 19	at Buffalo (Sat.)	17-10
Dec. 27	NEW ENGLAND	31-10

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Sept. 6	at Kansas City	8-28
Sept. 13	NEW YORK GIANTS	20-17
Sept. 20	DENVER	17-34
Sept. 27	at Dallas	13-12
Oct. 4	at Arizona	23-20
Oct. 11	SAN DIEGO	7-6
Oct. 18	Open Date	
Oct. 25	CINCINNATI	27-10
Nov. 1	at Seattle	31-18
Nov. 8	at Baltimore	10-13
Nov. 15	SEATTLE	20-17
Nov. 22	at Denver	14-40
Nov. 29	WASHINGTON	19-29
Dec. 6	MIAMI	17-27
Dec. 13	at Buffalo	21-44
Dec. 20	at San Diego	17-10
Dec. 26	KANSAS CITY (Sat.)	24-31

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 6	at Baltimore	20-13
Sept. 13	CHICAGO	17-12
Sept. 20	at Miami	0-21
Sept. 27	SEATTLE	13-10
Oct. 4	Open Date	
Oct. 11	at Cincinnati	20-25
Oct. 18	BALTIMORE	16-6
Oct. 26	at Kansas City (Mon.)	20-13
Nov. 1	TENNESSEE	31-41
Nov. 9	GREEN BAY (Mon.)	27-20
Nov. 15	at Tennessee	14-23
Nov. 22	JACKSONVILLE	30-15
Nov. 26	at Detroit (Thurs.)	*16-19
Dec. 6	NEW ENGLAND	9-23
Dec. 13	at Tampa Bay	3-16
Dec. 20	CINCINNATI	24-25
Dec. 28	at Jacksonville (Mon.)	3-21

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept. 6	BUFFALO	16-14
Sept. 13	at Tennessee	13-7
Sept. 20	at Kansas City	7-23
Sept. 27	NEW YORK GIANTS	16-34
Oct. 4	at Indianapolis	12-17
Oct. 11	at Oakland	6-7
Oct. 18	PHILADELPHIA	13-10
Oct. 25	SEATTLE	20-27
Nov. 1	Open Date	
Nov. 8	at Denver	10-27
Nov. 15	BALTIMORE	14-13
Nov. 22	KANSAS CITY	38-37
Nov. 29	DENVER	16-31
Dec. 6	at Washington	20-24
Dec. 13	at Seattle	17-38
Dec. 20	OAKLAND	10-17
Dec. 27	at Arizona	13-16

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Sept. 6	at Philadelphia	38-0
Sept. 13	ARIZONA	33-14
Sept. 20	WASHINGTON	24-14
Sept. 27	at Pittsburgh	10-13
Oct. 4	at Kansas City	6-17
Oct. 11	DENVER	16-21
Oct. 18	Open Date	
Oct. 25	at San Diego	27-20
Nov. 1	OAKLAND	18-31
Nov. 8	KANSAS CITY	24-12
Nov. 15	at Oakland	17-20
Nov. 22	at Dallas	22-30
Nov. 29	TENNESSEE	20-18
Dec. 6	at New York Jets	31-32
Dec. 13	SAN DIEGO	38-17
Dec. 20	INDIANAPOLIS	27-23
Dec. 27	at Denver	21-28

TENNESSEE OILERS

Sept. 6	at Cincinnati	23-14
Sept. 13	SAN DIEGO	7-13
Sept. 20	at New England	16-27
Sept. 27	JACKSONVILLE	22-27
Oct. 4	Open Date	
Oct. 11	at Baltimore	12-8
Oct. 18	CINCINNATI	44-14
Oct. 25	CHICAGO	20-23
Nov. 1	at Pittsburgh	41-31
Nov. 8	at Tampa Bay	31-22
Nov. 15	PITTSBURGH	23-14
Nov. 22	NEW YORK JETS	3-24
Nov. 29	at Seattle	18-20
Dec. 6	BALTIMORE	16-14
Dec. 13	at Jacksonville	16-13
Dec. 20	at Green Bay	22-30
Dec. 26	MINNESOTA (Sat.)	16-26

1998 STANDINGS

EASTERN	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
N.Y. Jets	12	4	0	.750	416	266
Miami	10	6	0	.625	321	265
Buffalo	10	6	0	.625	400	333
New England	9	7	0	.563	337	329
Indianapolis	3	13	0	.188	310	444

CENTRAL	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Jacksonville	11	5	0	.688	392	338
Tennessee	8	8	0	.500	330	320
Pittsburgh	7	9	0	.438	263	303
Baltimore	6	10	0	.375	269	335
Cincinnati	3	13	0	.188	268	452

WESTERN	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Denver	14	2	0	.875	501	309
Oakland	8	8	0	.500	288	356
Seattle	8	8	0	.500	372	310
Kansas City	7	9	0	.438	327	363
San Diego	5	11	0	.313	241	342

*Overtime

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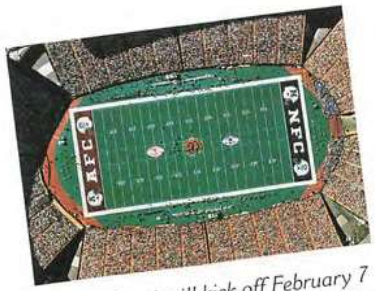
SEE YOU IN HAWAI'I NEXT WEEK.



The Pro Bowl will kick off February 7 on the island of O'ahu at Aloha Stadium.

Top players in Super Bowl XXXIII will be heading to the Pro Bowl in Hawai'i next week. You're invited, too, and before or after the game there are six points *you* should make.

These are the six major Islands of Hawai'i: O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Lana'i, and The Big Island. They offer astonishing variety, from electric nightlife to bird-filled rain forests, from relaxed sunbathing to erupting volcanoes.

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The Islands of Aloha

1998 NFC RESULTS & STANDINGS

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Sept. 6	at Dallas	10-38
Sept. 13	at Seattle	14-33
Sept. 20	PHILADELPHIA	17-3
Sept. 27	at St. Louis	20-17
Oct. 4	OAKLAND	20-23
Oct. 11	CHICAGO	20-7
Oct. 18	at New York Giants	7-34
Oct. 25	Open Date	
Nov. 1	at Detroit	17-15
Nov. 8	WASHINGTON	29-27
Nov. 15	DALLAS	28-35
Nov. 22	at Washington	45-42
Nov. 29	at Kansas City	24-34
Dec. 6	NEW YORK GIANTS	19-23
Dec. 13	at Philadelphia	*20-17
Dec. 20	NEW ORLEANS	19-17
Dec. 27	SAN DIEGO	16-13

ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept. 6	at Carolina	19-14
Sept. 13	PHILADELPHIA	17-12
Sept. 20	Open Date	
Sept. 27	at San Francisco	20-31
Oct. 4	CAROLINA	51-23
Oct. 11	at New York Giants	34-20
Oct. 18	NEW ORLEANS	31-23
Oct. 25	at New York Jets	3-28
Nov. 1	ST. LOUIS	37-15
Nov. 8	at New England	41-10
Nov. 15	SAN FRANCISCO	31-19
Nov. 22	CHICAGO	20-13
Nov. 29	at St. Louis	21-10
Dec. 6	INDIANAPOLIS	28-21
Dec. 13	at New Orleans	27-17
Dec. 20	at Detroit	24-17
Dec. 27	MIAMI	38-16

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Sept. 6	ATLANTA	14-19
Sept. 13	at New Orleans	14-19
Sept. 20	Open Date	
Sept. 27	GREEN BAY	30-37
Oct. 4	at Atlanta	23-51
Oct. 11	at Dallas	20-27
Oct. 18	at Tampa Bay	13-16
Oct. 25	BUFFALO	14-30
Nov. 1	NEW ORLEANS	31-17
Nov. 8	at San Francisco	23-25
Nov. 15	MIAMI	9-13
Nov. 22	at St. Louis	24-20
Nov. 29	at New York Jets	21-48
Dec. 6	SAN FRANCISCO	*28-31
Dec. 13	WASHINGTON	25-28
Dec. 20	ST. LOUIS	20-13
Dec. 27	at Indianapolis	27-19

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 6	JACKSONVILLE	23-24
Sept. 13	at Pittsburgh	12-17
Sept. 20	at Tampa Bay	15-27
Sept. 27	MINNESOTA	28-31
Oct. 4	DETROIT	31-27
Oct. 11	at Arizona	7-20
Oct. 18	DALLAS	13-12
Oct. 25	at Tennessee	23-20
Nov. 1	Open Date	
Nov. 8	ST. LOUIS	12-20
Nov. 15	at Detroit	3-26
Nov. 22	at Atlanta	13-20
Nov. 29	TAMPA BAY	17-31
Dec. 6	at Minnesota	22-48
Dec. 13	at Green Bay	20-26
Dec. 20	BALTIMORE	24-3
Dec. 27	GREEN BAY	13-16

DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept. 6	ARIZONA	38-10
Sept. 13	at Denver	23-42
Sept. 21	at New York Giants (Mon)	31-7
Sept. 27	OAKLAND	12-13
Oct. 4	at Washington	31-10
Oct. 11	CAROLINA	27-20
Oct. 18	at Chicago	12-13
Oct. 25	Open Date	
Nov. 2	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	34-0
Nov. 8	NEW YORK GIANTS	16-6
Nov. 15	at Arizona	35-28
Nov. 22	SEATTLE	30-22
Nov. 26	MINNESOTA (Thurs.)	36-46
Dec. 6	at New Orleans	3-22
Dec. 13	at Kansas City	17-20
Dec. 20	PHILADELPHIA	13-9
Dec. 27	WASHINGTON	23-7

DETROIT LIONS

Sept. 6	at Green Bay	19-38
Sept. 13	CINCINNATI	*28-34
Sept. 20	at Minnesota	6-29
Sept. 28	TAMPA BAY (Mon.)	27-6
Oct. 4	at Chicago	27-31
Oct. 11	Open Date	
Oct. 15	GREEN BAY (Thurs.)	27-20
Oct. 25	MINNESOTA	13-34
Nov. 1	ARIZONA	15-17
Nov. 8	at Philadelphia	9-10
Nov. 15	CHICAGO	26-3
Nov. 22	at Tampa Bay	28-25
Nov. 26	PITTSBURGH (Thurs.)	*19-16
Dec. 6	at Jacksonville	22-37
Dec. 14	at San Francisco (Mon.)	13-35
Dec. 20	ATLANTA	17-24
Dec. 27	at Baltimore	10-19

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 6	DETROIT	38-19
Sept. 13	TAMPA BAY	23-15
Sept. 20	at Cincinnati	13-6
Sept. 27	at Carolina	37-30
Oct. 5	MINNESOTA (Mon.)	24-37
Oct. 11	Open Date	
Oct. 15	at Detroit (Thurs.)	20-27
Oct. 25	BALTIMORE	28-10
Nov. 1	SAN FRANCISCO	36-22
Nov. 9	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	20-27
Nov. 15	at New York Giants	37-3
Nov. 22	at Minnesota	14-28
Nov. 29	PHILADELPHIA	24-16
Dec. 7	at Tampa Bay (Mon.)	22-24
Dec. 13	CHICAGO	26-20
Dec. 20	TENNESSEE	30-22
Dec. 27	at Chicago	16-13

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept. 6	TAMPA BAY	31-7
Sept. 13	at St. Louis	38-31
Sept. 20	DETROIT	29-6
Sept. 27	at Chicago	31-28
Oct. 5	at Green Bay (Mon.)	37-24
Oct. 11	Open Date	
Oct. 18	WASHINGTON	41-7
Oct. 25	at Detroit	34-13
Nov. 1	at Tampa Bay	24-27
Nov. 8	NEW ORLEANS	31-24
Nov. 15	CINCINNATI	24-3
Nov. 22	GREEN BAY	28-14
Nov. 26	at Dallas (Thurs.)	46-36
Dec. 6	CHICAGO	48-22
Dec. 13	at Baltimore	38-28
Dec. 20	JACKSONVILLE	50-10
Dec. 26	at Tennessee (Sat.)	26-16

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept. 6	at St. Louis	24-17
Sept. 13	CAROLINA	19-14
Sept. 20	Open Date	
Sept. 27	at Indianapolis	*19-13
Oct. 4	NEW ENGLAND	27-30
Oct. 11	SAN FRANCISCO	0-31
Oct. 18	at Atlanta	23-31
Oct. 25	TAMPA BAY	9-3
Nov. 1	at Carolina	17-31
Nov. 8	at Minnesota	24-31
Nov. 15	ST. LOUIS	24-3
Nov. 22	at San Francisco	20-31
Nov. 29	at Miami	10-30
Dec. 6	DALLAS	22-3
Dec. 13	ATLANTA	17-27
Dec. 20	at Arizona	17-19
Dec. 27	BUFFALO	33-45

NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept. 6	WASHINGTON	31-24
Sept. 13	at Oakland	17-20
Sept. 21	DALLAS (Mon.)	7-31
Sept. 27	at San Diego	34-16
Oct. 4	at Tampa Bay	3-20
Oct. 11	ATLANTA	20-34
Oct. 18	ARIZONA	34-7
Oct. 25	Open Date	
Nov. 1	at Washington	14-21
Nov. 8	at Dallas	6-16
Nov. 15	GREEN BAY	3-37
Nov. 22	PHILADELPHIA	20-0
Nov. 30	at San Francisco (Mon.)	7-31
Dec. 6	at Arizona	23-19
Dec. 13	DENVER	20-16
Dec. 20	KANSAS CITY	28-7
Dec. 27	at Philadelphia	20-10

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept. 6	SEATTLE	0-38
Sept. 13	at Atlanta	12-17
Sept. 20	at Arizona	3-17
Sept. 27	KANSAS CITY	21-24
Oct. 4	at Denver	16-41
Oct. 11	WASHINGTON	17-12
Oct. 18	at San Diego	10-13
Oct. 25	Open Date	
Nov. 2	DALLAS (Mon.)	0-34
Nov. 8	DETROIT	10-9
Nov. 15	at Washington	3-28
Nov. 22	at New York Giants	0-20
Nov. 29	at Green Bay	16-24
Dec. 3	ST. LOUIS (Thurs.)	17-14
Dec. 13	ARIZONA	*17-20
Dec. 20	at Dallas	9-13
Dec. 27	NEW YORK GIANTS	10-20

ST. LOUIS RAMS

Sept. 6	NEW ORLEANS	17-24
Sept. 13	MINNESOTA	31-38
Sept. 20	at Buffalo	34-33
Sept. 27	ARIZONA	17-20
Oct. 4	Open Date	
Oct. 11	NEW YORK JETS	30-10
Oct. 18	at Miami	0-14
Oct. 25	SAN FRANCISCO	10-28
Nov. 1	at Atlanta	15-37
Nov. 8	at Chicago	20-12
Nov. 15	at New Orleans	3-24
Nov. 22	CAROLINA	20-24
Nov. 29	ATLANTA	10-21
Dec. 3	at Philadelphia (Thurs.)	14-17
Dec. 13	NEW ENGLAND	32-18
Dec. 20	at Carolina	13-20
Dec. 27	at San Francisco	19-38

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Sept. 6	NEW YORK JETS	*36-30
Sept. 14	at Washington (Mon.)	45-10
Sept. 20	Open Date	
Sept. 27	ATLANTA	31-20
Oct. 4	at Buffalo	21-26
Oct. 11	at New Orleans	31-0
Oct. 18	INDIANAPOLIS	34-31
Oct. 25	at St. Louis	28-10
Nov. 1	at Green Bay	22-36
Nov. 8	CAROLINA	25-23
Nov. 15	at Atlanta	19-31
Nov. 22	NEW ORLEANS	31-20
Nov. 30	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	31-7
Dec. 6	at Carolina	*31-28
Dec. 14	DETROIT (Mon.)	35-13
Dec. 20	at New England	21-24
Dec. 27	ST. LOUIS	38-19

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Sept. 6	at Minnesota	7-31
Sept. 13	at Green Bay	15-23
Sept. 20	CHICAGO	27-15
Sept. 28	at Detroit (Mon.)	6-27
Oct. 4	NEW YORK GIANTS	20-3
Oct. 11	Open Date	
Oct. 18	CAROLINA	16-13
Oct. 25	at New Orleans	3-9
Nov. 1	MINNESOTA	27-24
Nov. 8	TENNESSEE	22-31
Nov. 15	at Jacksonville	24-29
Nov. 22	DETROIT	25-28
Nov. 29	at Chicago	31-17
Dec. 7	GREEN BAY (Mon.)	24-22
Dec. 13	PITTSBURGH	16-3
Dec. 19	at Washington (Sat.)	16-20
Dec. 27	at Cincinnati	35-0

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Sept. 6	at New York Giants	24-31
Sept. 14	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	10-45
Sept. 20	at Seattle	14-24
Sept. 27	DENVER	16-38
Oct. 4	DALLAS	10-31
Oct. 11	at Philadelphia	12-17
Oct. 18	at Minnesota	7-41
Oct. 25	Open Date	
Nov. 1	NEW YORK GIANTS	21-14
Nov. 8	at Arizona	27-29
Nov. 15	PHILADELPHIA	28-3
Nov. 22	ARIZONA	42-45
Nov. 29	at Oakland	29-19
Dec. 6	SAN DIEGO	24-20
Dec. 13	at Carolina	28-25
Dec. 19	TAMPA BAY (Sat.)	20-16
Dec. 27	at Dallas	7-23

1998 STANDINGS

EASTERN	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Dallas	10	6	0	.625	381	275
Arizona	9	7	0	.563	325	378
N.Y. Giants	8	8	0	.500	287	309
Washington	6	10	0	.375	319	421
Philadelphia	3	13	0	.188	161	344

CENTRAL	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Minnesota	15	1	0	.938	556	296
Green Bay	11	5	0	.688	408	319
Tampa Bay	8	8	0	.500	314	295
Detroit	5	11	0	.313	306	378
Chicago	4	12	0	.250	276	368

WESTERN	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Atlanta	14	2	0	.875	442	289
San Francisco	12	4	0	.750	479	328
New Orleans	6	10	0	.375	305	359
Carolina	4	12	0	.250	336	413
St. Louis	4	12	0	.250	285	378

*Overtime

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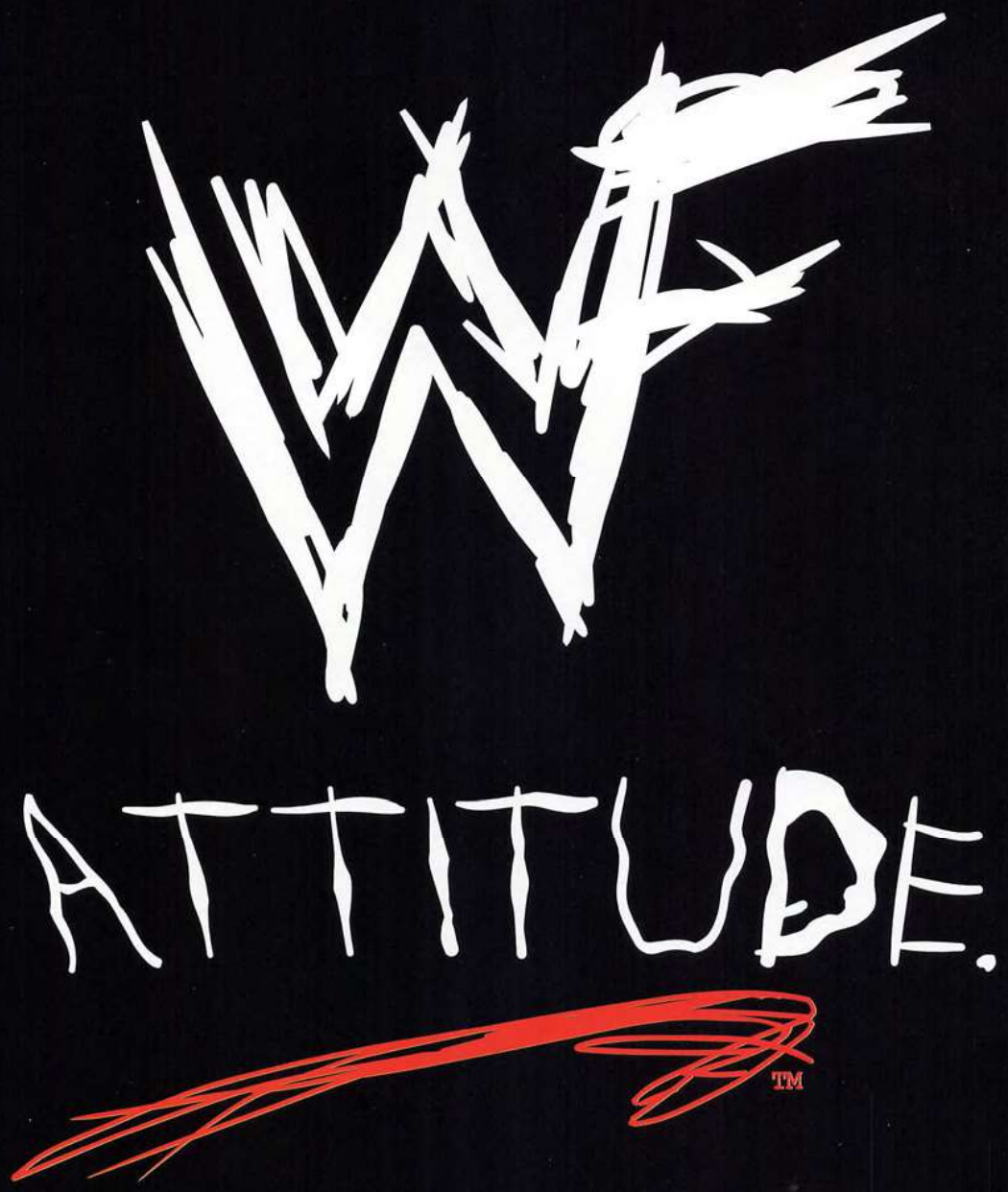

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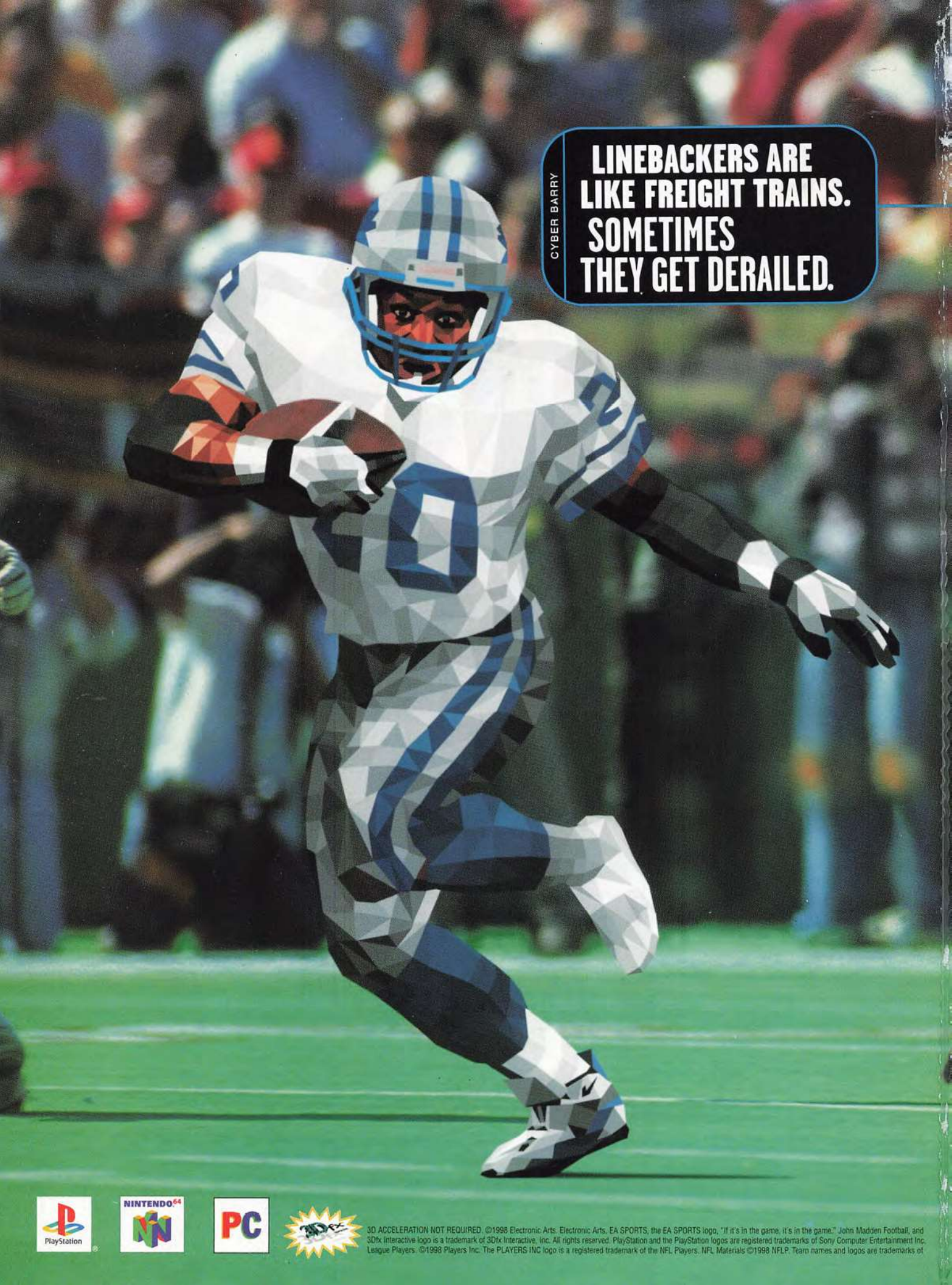
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